

Before The Times crosses
Australia \$11.00, Belgium 10.00, France 11.00,
Germany 10.00, Denmark 10.00, Ireland 10.00,
Italy 10.00, Japan 10.00, Netherlands 10.00,
New Zealand 10.00, Norway 10.00, Portugal 10.00,
Spain 10.00, Sweden 10.00, Switzerland 10.00,
USA 10.00, UK 10.00, Zimbabwe 10.00.



Slanging match over Labour film

Battle over leak eclipses issues

By Robin Oakley and Philip Webster

THE Conservative party admitted last night that it had put the consultant at the centre of the health service dispute in touch with one of the newspapers that disclosed the name of Jennifer Bennett.

The admission by William Waldegrave, the health secretary, came after a day of fierce exchanges between the parties over who had been responsible for leaking the name of the girl, whose case inspired Labour's election broadcast after her lengthy wait for an ear operation.

The apparently trivial affair assumed key significance with both parties desperate to avoid blame for the leak and the subsequent media blitz on the family. Integrity was becoming a crucial issue as the Conservatives sought to make Neil Kinnock's suitability as prime minister a focus of the campaign and Labour hit back after Mr Waldegrave's revelation with accusations of Conservative hypocrisy.

The latest twist in the dispute came as doctors delivered an overwhelming vote of no-confidence in the health service reforms. General practitioners and consultants at the British Medical Association special conference in London voted by large majorities against the spread of fund-holding practices and the setting up of new waves of self-governing trusts.

Both Mr Kinnock and John Major denied early yesterday that their party offici-

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als were in any way responsible for leaking the girl's name in the publicity war. At a frantic afternoon press conference on the Tory health record, Mr Waldegrave later confirmed that the Tories had acted as a go-between, putting the girl's consultant in touch with the *Daily Express*.

Alan Ardouin, the consultant, contacted Conservative Central Office about 40 minutes before the broadcast was shown to voice his concern about it. He had earlier been contacted by *The Independent* newspaper, who already had details of the broadcast.

In the face of claims that *The Independent* had been told about the broadcast from Labour sources, Andreas Whitam Smith, the newspaper's editor, said last night that its information had not come from the Labour party or anyone connected with it. The newspaper also made plain its information did not come from the Conservatives. Mr Waldegrave's disclo-

sure provoked Labour outrage. Robin Cook, the party's health spokesman, demanded the health secretary's resignation, saying that he had incited a consultant to disclose details about a patient.

Earlier, in a bizarre day which saw journalists being angrily and publicly quizzed by colleagues about their reports, Julie Hall, Mr Kinnock's press secretary, interrupted a Labour press conference in Nottingham to challenge reporters about allegations that she had given a clue to the child's identity.

Paddy Ashdown dismissed the continuing dispute last night as showing more about the priorities of the two other parties than anything else. "We should have spent the last 24 hours discussing the real issues of health care instead of listening to puerile claims and counter-claims about who leaked what to whom. Most people in this country will be bewildered and perplexed at this whole miserable charade."

The Conservatives claimed that they had boosted health spending to levels never achieved by Labour governments, while Labour announced they had set up a hotline to take the hundreds of complaints they were receiving about health service delays following their election broadcast. Labour accused the Tories of erecting a smoke-screen to obscure their record on the health service. The Tories believed, since Mr Kinnock had participated



Hard pressed: Julie Hall, Mr Kinnock's press secretary, giving her side of the story in Nottingham yesterday

in what they argued was a dishonest broadcast, that they had the issue to hand on which to focus on him personally, something they have been keen to do as opinion polls underline the prime minister's greater public esteem.

Mr Kinnock hit out at the Conservatives, saying: "The Tory party have done an unforgivable wrong to a little girl by their cynical conduct and everyone knows that now." A Conservative spokesman said, however, that the

prime minister had no knowledge of the consultant's contacts with Conservative Central Office.

Last night Conservative Central Office denied that they had given the child's name to newspapers. They insisted that they had not known her name until the morning after the broadcast when it appeared in newspapers. It had not been disclosed in a fax sent to them nine days before by the girl's grandfather, a former Tory mayor, alerting them to

Labour's plans for a broadcast.

As the accusations about who had leaked the child's name eclipsed most other news yesterday, Mr Kinnock tried in vain to shift public attention to the ambulance workers and Mr Major visited York district hospital, which is due to take on self-governing status.

The prime minister challenged Labour to come clean over its attitude to private medicine and argued that the party had been dishonest in

suggesting that it was wrong for patients to jump queues for surgery by paying for private treatment. Speaking after his hospital tour, Mr Major said that the Labour health broadcast was "inaccurate unless they are going

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TODAY IN THE TIMES
MEMORY'S LANE

Angela Carter's life will be celebrated at the Ritzy Cinema, Brixton. Valerie Grove considers other secular memorials

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REMBRANDT'S LONG ROAD



Richard Cork charts the flowering of Rembrandt's art from ostentatious youth to profound old age

Life & Times, page 3

TOUGH PATH TO HEALTH



A surgery is prescribing the local leisure centre for patients it describes as "heart-sink" cases - with surprising success

Life & Times, page 5

Paying in advance

Councils are asking people who pay the community charge by direct debit to make their first payments up to a month earlier this year.

One council estimates that this will save £60,000 a year in interest charges - the equivalent of £1.50 a head. Page 2

Fire eating

Psychologists have evolved a system of treating young arsonists by getting them to start fires and then extinguish them, giving good performers cakes as a reward. Page 3

Takeover win

Redland declared victory in its £613 million takeover battle for Steeley after receiving acceptance in respect of 60 per cent of the company, thereby creating Britain's largest building products group. Page 19

Spanish hope

Spain wants the world to come to Expo in Seville and the Olympics in Barcelona. But there are doubts about the country's future economic performance in the European single market. Pages 27-31

Soccer nomad

Clive Allen was on the move again yesterday from Chelsea to the first division's bottom team, West Ham, completing eight transfers costing a total of £6m in 12 years. Page 38

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British Gas to freeze bills of 18m customers

By David Young

GAS bills of 18 million British domestic consumers are to be frozen from April 1, and prices are likely to fall in the autumn. British Gas is also introducing a charter promising improvements in the quality of its service, and will compensate customers when it is found lacking.

But Sir James McKinnon, the director-general of Ofgas, the independent watchdog for the industry, said that he was disappointed that a price cut was not being announced on April 1. He said: "All the present indicators are that a price cut should be justified."

Sir James said that if overall standards did not improve, then he would review prices to assess whether customers were being overcharged. He would be asking British Gas to justify its "do nothing" stance.

The price freeze comes after a year in which British Gas has held prices for domestic consumers under the rate of inflation, but also at a time when the company's profits have been criticised following the disclosure that chairman Robert Evans's pay rose 17.6 per cent to £1,252 a week.

British Gas is now under severe pressure to announce an autumn price cut. Only an unexpected increase in the inflation rate - present government predictions are that it will be well under 4 per cent by October - would prevent a reduction in domestic tariffs.

Conservative politicians are

expecting a price cut to prove the success of their privatisation programme and their strict regulatory formula. Labour, in turn, will demand that the benefits of large profits from a former state-owned company should be passed on to the consumer.

The company will be reviewing prices in June with Ofgas. Any price cut, likely to be announced in July, would come into effect in October.

Cedric Brown, the senior managing director of British Gas, said yesterday: "There is not much doubt that if inflation continues to go in the direction it is going, then the next price movement will be downwards. The announcement of a price freeze is in effect a reduction in price in real terms, given the current level of inflation."

Gas prices last went up last April by 3.6 per cent. Over the past four years, prices have fallen by 14 per cent in real terms, British Gas said. Under a new pricing formula, negotiated between British Gas and Ofgas, which comes into effect on April 1, prices could fall later this year when supply contracts are renegotiated with North Sea producers, and when the October inflation rate is published.

Sir James, however, welcomed the new British Gas commitment to customer service, describing it as "a new dawn for Britain's gas users". He said: "No longer

will they be subjected to the whims and capricious attitudes of a monopolist."

The new commitment to customers includes:

□ A £10 compensation for broken appointments, unless a day's notice of cancellation is given.

□ "Friendly, clear, simple" replies within five working days to customers' letters.

□ Gas supplies restored within one working day when they are cut off for safety reasons. If not, £20 a day compensation will be paid.

□ The elderly, disabled and the vulnerable will not be left without adequate heating and cooking facilities. Failure to provide such services will result in £10 a day compensation, except when emergencies have hit supply.

□ Telephone calls answered within 30 seconds.

Mr Brown said that although fixed compensation payments were being introduced, the aim would be to "get it right first time". Ian Powe, the director of the Gas Consumer Council, welcomed the commitment but said: "They are both overdue and underdone. Overdue because electricity has worked to similar standards for nearly two years already; underdone because British Gas insists that customers must claim compensation and will not pay the compensation automatically."

Letters, page 15



Tyson is jailed for six years

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN INDIANAPOLIS

MIKE TYSON, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment yesterday for raping an 18-year-old beauty queen contestant during a Miss Black America pageant here last July.

Even with time off for good behaviour, the sentence will very likely end the career of the youngest, richest and most infamous champion in boxing history and could well bankrupt him. Tyson stared impassively ahead as the sentence was delivered.

The imprisonment began immediately. Judge Patricia Gifford refused to release the boxer, aged 25, on bail pending trial.

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Tyson's knockout, page 12

Libya puts £177m in Lonrho hotel deal

By Our Business Staff

ROLAND "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive of Lonrho, the international trading conglomerate, personally handled negotiations with the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company that involves a cash injection of £177.5 million in exchange for a one-third stake in Metropole Hotels group. Lonrho's annual meeting was told yesterday.

The deal gives the Libyan authorities a direct stake in the British chain that has hotels in London, Brighton, Birmingham and Blackpool, and the right to appoint two of out eight directors to Metropole's board.

Lonrho added that it had been talking with the Libyan authority "for weeks", but declined to identify who initiated the deal, or if Colonel Gaddafi had been directly involved. Lonrho said the deal was a "personal achievement" of Mr Rowland, and that the money had been already been received and banked in London.

The cash injection into Metropole would be used for the further development of the group, and to help reduce Metropole's debts. Lonrho has extensive interests throughout Africa, and said that the Libyan connection was commercially minded.

The announcement was made only hours before Lonrho's annual meeting, and on the day that the United Nations met to consider trade sanctions against Libya.

In 1991, Lonrho's pre-tax

profits fell from £273 million to £207 million, and the final dividend was cut sharply. But despite questions about how much longer the 74-year-old Mr Rowland could carry on, and the dismay at Lonrho's poor performance in 1991, no shareholders seriously raised doubts about the Libyan deal.

Full details, page 19

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Lucky thirteen wins bridge player's heart

By John Young

SO WHAT'S the big deal? That might be the excusable response of those who are not bridge players on learning that Bill McNall of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, had dealt himself a hand consisting of all 13 cards of the hearts suit.

But they might reconsider when they discovered that, according to the *Guinness Book of Records*, the odds against such an event are 158,753,389,999 to one. The book does not record any instance of it happening before.

In contract bridge, as in whist, the 52-card pack is shuffled and dealt between the four players. The players are paired and bid in partnership according to how many "tricks" they think they can win. Bidding continues clockwise until three out of the four players pass. A

successful bid of, say, three spades, means that the player is contracted to make nine tricks (six plus three), with spades as trumps. He plays both from his own hand and that of his partner, whose cards are face up on the table.

A good hand is obviously one which contains an above-average quota of high cards, namely aces, kings and queens. But much depends on distribution, the way the suits are split. A player with seven or eight cards of the same suit is in a strong position, since he can expect to make several extra tricks if he is the highest bidder and that suit is designated as trumps. Nine of the same suit would be remarkable, ten exceptional, eleven a once-in-a-lifetime experience for even a regular player.

A hand containing all 13 hearts is, on the face of it, an automatic

"grand slam"; that is to say, with hearts as trumps, the holder cannot fail to make all 13 tricks. But it is not as simple as that. If he opens with a lower bid, he is faced with the possibility that none of the other players will respond, in which case he misses a cast-iron slam; his partner will not support a hearts bid, because he will have none himself. His only realistic choice is an immediate bid of seven hearts.

Grand slams are, however, commonplace. Mr McNall was apparently allowed to make his contract, but that was of no consequence compared with the extraordinary chance of the deal. People watching the game at the Carlton Club, in Gateshead, rushed for their calculators and, unable to cope with the astronomical odds, turned to the record book. Mr McNall, aged 58,



His heart in his hand: Bill McNall displays his perfect deal

Continued on page 18, col 6

Savings by councils

Direct debit poll tax to be paid early

BY DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MOST of the 18 million people who pay the community charge by direct debit are being asked to pay up to a month earlier this year to save councils millions of pounds.

Most councils have waited until the middle or end of the month before taking instalment payments from bank accounts. This year many are switching to the first of the month to try to keep collection accounts in the black and reduce the need to borrow to meet commitments.

Much of the surcharge added to bills for non-payment has been caused by the cost of borrowing to cover late payments and council treasurers hope that this will be reduced by bringing forward payment dates.

The financial effect on individuals of the change will be fairly modest. The average community charge in England this year will be £279.34, or £27.94 a month, according to a poll tax survey by *The Times*. Although the sums involved are small in compar-

ison to average earnings the potential of the changed payment date to cause irritation has yet to be tested.

Among the first to introduce the change was Conservative-controlled South Buckinghamshire council which said that it will save £60,000 a year in interest charges, equivalent to £1.50 a head off poll tax. "We gave all our direct debit payers three weeks' notice and out of 46,500 charge payers I think we had ten complaints," Barry Preedy, council treasurer, said. "We have to pay over the monthly precept to the county council on the tenth of each month but up to now our direct debit date was the 15th, which meant we had to borrow for five days to cover the cost of the precept."

About half of the 37 million registered charge payers in England pay by direct debit in ten equal monthly instalments. Ian Ward, assistant finance secretary at the Association of District Councils, said that most could expect to pay earlier this year.

"Part of the reason is that, although this is the final year of the poll tax, it is the first time that bills have gone out on time so councils have the opportunity to ask for payment on the nail," he said. "It also makes sense to avoid borrowing and, providing councils give two clear weeks' notice, they are entitled to collect the first instalment on the day it falls due, April 1."

If every council was to make similar savings to those forecast by South Buckinghamshire the total saving to local authorities would be more than £12 million in the full financial year.

In London and the metropolitan areas councils must make monthly payments to police, fire and passenger transport authorities regardless of the amount they have collected in poll tax. Shire districts have to pay monthly precepts to county councils which account for more than 80 per cent of the money the districts raise in poll tax.

The trade and industry department renewed its attempt for a final judgment at the High Court in London yesterday in its action against Fred Trull, who said people could avoid paying poll tax by buying £1 shares in a Cornish tin mining company.

The hearing continues today.

Spelling guide cuts out tricky bits

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA
EDUCATION REPORTER

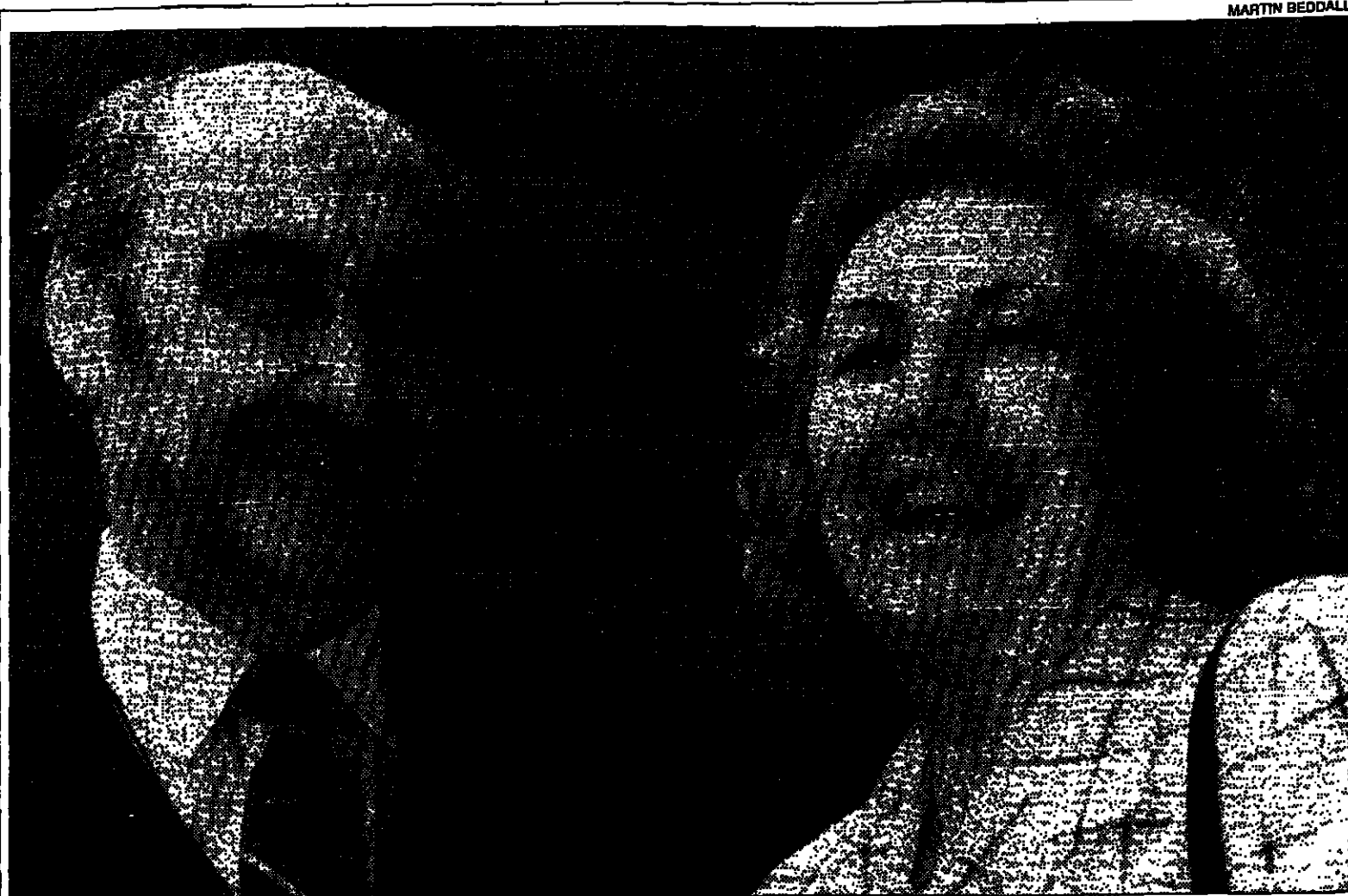
"TRUBISM spelling problems that have bedeviled riting in English for centuries" could be soon be a thing of the past, according to an improbable spelling manual launched yesterday.

The Simplified Spelling Society's *Handbook to Cut Spelling* offers a rationalised version of the language. Letters irrelevant to pronunciation, un-stressed vowels before l, m, n and r and double consonants are all destined for the linguistic pedal-bin. No more tricky "b" in debt, or illogical "gh" in daughter.

The technique is claimed to be 10 per cent more concise than traditional spelling, with no loss of clarity. "Since most words are unchanged and few letters substituted," the introduction says, "one has the impression of normal rita english with a lot of od slips, rather than of a totally new riting system." Time at the word-processor would be saved, public signs would be smaller and consumption of paper would fall, the manual adds.

Cut spelling may bear an alarming resemblance to the streamlined languages of Orwell's *1984*, but Christopher Upward, author of the handbook, said that it would improve standards of literacy. "Many other nations achieve higher standards of literacy because their languages use the alphabet properly to represent the sounds of words," he said. "My research shows that university students can spell better in German than in English."

Not everyone accepts that traditional spelling should be swept away. "I would not go so far as to say it was a mutilation of the language, but it is not far off," Anne Barnes, general secretary of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said. "No language is written the way it is pronounced and regional accents mean that words are said in many ways." The changes would make the language bland, stripping it, perhaps, of all its glamr.



The Yanks are coming: Dame Vera Lynn with Colonel James Goodson, thought to be the first American to join the RAF in the second world war, launching a programme to attract American veterans to Britain to mark the 50th anniversary of the arrival of their troops

Irish women to get abortion information

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRISH anti-abortion campaigners yesterday expressed disappointment over government proposals to allow abortion information to be available to women in the republic.

The proposals were part of an amendment to Ireland's anti-abortion protocol to the Maastricht treaty on European political and economic union, designed to bring Ireland into line with EC law. The government has been forced to amend the protocol, which protects Ireland's constitutional ban on abortion from EC social legislation, after a non-binding decision of the Supreme Court last month.

Delivering judgment in the case of a 14-year-old rape victim initially prevented from travelling to Britain for an abortion, the judges found by a 4-1 majority that abortion should be available in Ireland in certain circumstances. Three of the judges also expressed non-binding opinions that under the constitution at present, the right to life of the unborn should take precedence over the right to travel, a view in contravention of EC law.

The new amendment tackles this and takes account of a government decision earlier this week to accept that information on abortion services elsewhere in the EC must now be made available. The amendment states: "This protocol shall not limit freedom to travel between member states or to obtain, in Ireland,

information relating to services lawfully available in member states."

The government is hoping the protocol will not be seized upon by anti-abortion campaigners as a reason to campaign against the Maastricht treaty, which will be put to a referendum, probably in June. If the treaty falls in Ireland it will fall in all EC states.

Mary Lucey, of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, did not rule out a campaign against the treaty. "It is far too high a price to pay for European integration and European unity, that we have to buy it at the expense of the lives of unborn babies."

Dr Lucey said she was not against the right to travel but believed the wording of the amendment would allow abortion referral in Ireland. "I am certain that the vast majority of the Irish people do not want abortion in our country."

While the constitutional ban on abortion was carried by majority of 2-1 in the 1983 referendum, observers predict that a new campaign against Maastricht would not succeed this time. They point to the likely consensus among the main political parties in support of the government.

Padraig Flynn, minister of justice, said he was hoping for a consensus and that the opposition would accept the words chosen. It was realistic that "people should have information to do with what is lawful".

Homeless boys seek court order to rehouse families

BY ADAM FRESCO

THE High Court is being asked to rule that two homeless five-year-old boys are legally entitled to demand that local authorities must house them, even though their parents have been declared "intentionally homeless" and not entitled to council accommodation.

The test cases have been brought on the children's behalf by their parents. Moses Buntum, from Bexley, southeast London, whose parents were declared intentionally homeless after failing to keep up mortgage payments on their house in Thamesmead, southeast London, asked through lawyers for a court order overturning the borough's refusal

to consider his personal application for a home.

If he is re-housed, his parents, two sisters and brother would be entitled to share his new accommodation.

Lawyers for Graham Garlick, from Oldham, Lancashire, made a similar challenge against Oldham council. His mother Sharon, aged 20, was declared intentionally homeless after being refused new accommodation following eviction from council property for rent arrears.

George Warr, counsel for Graham, said that the boy and his mother were now having to live at temporary addresses. It was not absurd for Graham to make an ap-

plication for accommodation as he was capable of answering the basic question: "Do you want a house for you and your mother, or no house, or do you want to be taken into care?" he said.

Oldham council said that Graham's application was a sham and "a transparent device" to get round the law.

David Watkinson, counsel for Moses, told Mr Justice Henry that the boy was clearly vulnerable and "in priority need" of help and could not be said to have made himself intentionally homeless. Bexley was therefore obliged to reconsider his application.

The hearing continues today.



The Tate Gallery has launched an eleven-hour attempt to buy a painting of London by Antonio Canaletto (Sarah Jane Checkland writes). *View of the Old Horse Guards Parade*, seen above, will be sold at Christie's on April 15 unless about £3 million can be raised. Holburn's *Lady with a Sparrow* will be auctioned on that date unless negotiations between Neil MacGregor, the National Gallery's director, and Lord Cholmondeley, its owner, are successful. Nicholas Serota, the Tate's director, hopes to raise enough to attract the Canaletto's owner, Lord Fitzharris. "The Tate has no painting by Canaletto, although his work in England is of crucial importance," Mr Serota said. Lord Fitzharris says that he did offer the painting to the national collections before approaching Christie's but was turned down. Sir Hugh Leggett, of Heritage in Danger, has described the Canaletto as a masterpiece.

successful. Nicholas Serota, the Tate's director, hopes to raise enough to attract the Canaletto's owner, Lord Fitzharris. "The Tate has no painting by Canaletto, although his work in England is of crucial importance," Mr Serota said. Lord Fitzharris says that he did offer the painting to the national collections before approaching Christie's but was turned down. Sir Hugh Leggett, of Heritage in Danger, has described the Canaletto as a masterpiece.

Maxwell's wine cellar fetches £93,000

Robert Maxwell's wine cellar went under the auctioneer's hammer at Christie's yesterday when just over 3,000 bottles fetched £93,174 (Robin Young writes).

All his burgundy and much of his claret was in magnums, and there were also double-magnums (equivalent to four bottles) and imperiales (an eight-bottle size).

The wines, technically the property of Headington Holdings Ltd (in administration), were described as "recently removed from the excellent purpose-built, temperature and humidity controlled cellars of Headington Hill Hall". A *Daily Mirror* insider, though, claimed that grand as that might sound the wines had in fact shared their accommodation with Mr Maxwell's pet labradors.

An imperiale of Château Figeac 1982 sold for £550, twice its high estimate. The London hotelier who purchased it, Faik Aydin Ezenm said he had bought the bottle for display purposes, and had no intention of drinking its contents.

Château Cheval Blanc 1982 reached £990 a dozen, compared with an upper estimate of £660, and Château Talbot of the same vintage (which was clearly Mr Maxwell's favourite year, since he had bought wine of it from 38 different châteaux) reached a bid price of £270, compared with the auctioneer's top estimate of £200.

Guard dies in security raid

A security guard died in hospital last night after being shot while making a delivery to Boots the Chemist in Greenock, Strathclyde. Derek Ure, aged 21, of Glasgow, and a colleague were attacked yesterday afternoon by three masked raiders, one armed with a shotgun.

After shooting Mr Ure, the gang escaped in a dark blue Volkswagen Passat, which they later abandoned in Greenock and transferred to a silver H-registration Vauxhall Calibra. Police have not said whether any money was stolen.

Rushdie threat

Muslim leaders in Britain yesterday warned Salman Rushdie that his life was "in greater danger" following the announcement that a paperback version of his novel, *The Satanic Verses*, is to be published and could be on sale within weeks. Liaqat Hussain, president of the Bradford Council for Mosques, said: "He is in greater danger now than ever before. There is no way back for him now."

Peer accused

The Marquess of Bristol was accused of attempting to pervert the course of justice by offering inducements to a witness in a court case when he appeared with another man before magistrates at Bury St Edmunds yesterday. Lord Bristol, aged 37, was jointly charged with Nicholas Ashley, aged 43, both of Ickworth House, near Bury. They were granted conditional bail until May 12.

£2,250 fine

A hunt master, Anthony Courtenay, of Taddington, Bedfordshire, was fined a total of £2,250 with £1,500 costs at Dunstable for illegally running a knacker's yard, and breaking meat regulations. Two tonnes of frozen unfit cattle and horse carcasses, which had not been sterilized or stained, were found on his farm. Courtenay also illegally transported meat from his farm to be fed to Enfield Chase Hunt hounds.

Rabid dog alert

A dog thought to have rabies was quarantined after walking off a Croatian ship with a crew member at Newport, Gwent, yesterday. The dog is in an isolation cage in kennels which are awaiting instructions from trading standards officers to have it destroyed.

Women ridicule the late dictators

A THEATRE full of discontented secretaries and personal assistants, all women, had a great time at the Barbican Centre in London yesterday, grumbling about their bosses' inadequacies, indecision and badly timed dictation.

The occasion was a series of seminars arranged with the London Secretary and Office Management Show, and this was the third day of the secretaries' insurgency.

All yesterday's sessions were fully subscribed, and in some the subject was having a second airing in front of another full house. Mary Overton of the Industrial Society expatiated on the right ways to take decisions and solve problems. From the ladies' questions afterwards, it was evident that senior personnel in their places of em-

An assertive spirit among discontented secretaries is emerging from a series of popular seminars, Robin Young reports

ployment had yet to grasp the basic principles of those important functions.

Miss Overton's method for decision making involves working carefully through "the 5 Cs". These are consider, consult, crunch, communicate and check. Many bad decisions were taken, she suggested, on the spur of the moment, without consideration or consultation. When it came to the crunch, though, she had a some more Cs in reserve. "If arguments are balanced", she advised, "take the courageous course. Go for what you believe is right."

As for problem solving, Miss Overton preached the

preference of the positive approach. One questioner raised a difficulty about the professional incompetence of men put in charge of dictating machines.

"I know", Miss Overton sympathised. "They do not use the tape to erase their mistakes. They just say: 'Sorry typist, I didn't mean that. Could you take it out?' And then they suddenly say in the middle of some dictation that you've just got round to at five to five. By the way, I need this by five tonight."

Miss Overton had taken the positive attitude to this headache already. "I have written a book about it from

the typist's point of view", she said. "Buy my boss's hope-

less", said one personal assistant brightly, "but he did take one sensible decision. He let me talk him into sending him here to find out how I could put him right."

In a following session Gina King, of the Industrial Society's equal opportunities department, dealt with "difficult situations at work", which included some fairly effective put downs suggested for dealing with sexual harassment.

"If you are suffering from harassment or bullying at work", she advised, "learn to be assertive in your rejection and explain why the behaviour is unacceptable. What needs to change is not us, but our vulnerability."

Waite quits church job to write book

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

TERRY Waite yesterday resigned as the Archbishop of Canterbury's secretary for Anglican Communion Affairs at Lambeth Palace. Mr Waite's period in office, during which he became known as the archbishop's special envoy, ends officially at the end of May, but in mid-April he will take up a fellowship at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he plans to write his book, *Taken on Trust*.

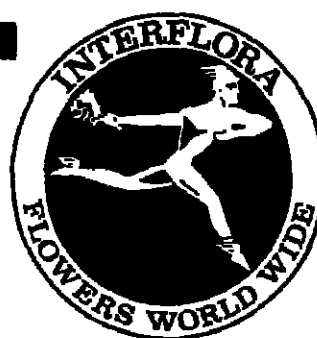
Mr Waite, speaking on the steps of Lambeth Palace, said he hoped that he would be able to carry on working for justice and reconciliation and helping the poor, and that the proceeds from the book

would be sufficient to support him in those tasks.

Mr Waite was at Lambeth Palace more than twice as long as the normal spell for a senior staff member. Canon Roger Symon, who handled the job during Mr Waite's imprisonment, will take over from June 1.

The archbishop, George Carey, and Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, have called for dialogue between Jews and Palestinians in Israel. In a debate to be broadcast on LBC radio on Sunday, Dr Sacks said: "The Jewish partners to that dialogue are there, ready, willing and waiting."

IT'S NOT TOO LATE



To send flowers for Mother's Day (March 29th) visit or phone your Interflora florist or out of shop hours ring the Interflora Flowerline on 0529 304545.

Children play with fire to reduce the risk of arson

By Nick Nuttall

BRITISH researchers have developed a pioneering system for treating young arsonists, which they believe might play a crucial role in stemming the nation's increasing arson rate that costs more than £63 million a year.

Psychologists attempt to translate a child's natural curiosity for fire into an enthusiasm for fire prevention. In one session, young arsonists are asked to start and then tackle a real blaze. They are rewarded with cream cakes for acting quickly.

"There has been a big increase in the number of attacks on educational establishments,"

Sex offence treatment 'at risk'

THE rehabilitation of young sexual offenders could be jeopardised by the Criminal Justice Act, the conference was told (Nick Nuttall writes).

Mike Nener, a psychologist from a youth treatment centre in Birmingham, said that the act would halve the sentences for such offenders from 28 to 14 months, giving psychologists less time for treatment. He said research indicated that more than 20 months were needed with such offenders if treatment was to be given the best chance of success.

Mr Nener highlighted the case of Gary (not his real name), a teenager sexually abused by an uncle and who had grown up believing that sex was obtained on demand. At 15 he raped a girl in an attempt to resolve his confusion over his sexuality.

At the centre Gary had therapy and now, three years later, was living with a girl and had not reoffended. Mr Nener said the case underlined the success that could be achieved with young sexual offenders and which could be jeopardised by the act because of time constraints.

Andrew Muckley, a psychologist, told the British Psychological Society conference in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, yesterday. "The peak age for those found guilty is 14 to 16 years. Clearly the problem is getting out of control."

Mr Muckley, of the Aycliffe Centre for Children, in Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, one of the largest centres in Europe for treating and assessing seriously disturbed adolescents, said that arson was one of the most under-researched areas of psychological study in Britain.

The treatment programme involves ten specially developed sessions. The attitudes towards fire of the young arsonists are assessed and studies are carried out on the child's home, school and leisure interests.

The children are given a choice between sucking up to 25 matches or receiving a reward of small coins. They are also asked to give a match to someone they like and invited to extinguish it. Other sessions include viewing videos of fires to highlight the danger, visits to fire stations, playing special card and board games that reinforce the risks of fires and the importance of prevention.

The researchers are also working with the Tyne and Wear fire service on visits to the homes of known young arsonists. Mr Muckley said that the research was at an early stage but that the findings from the new treatment programme were proving extremely encouraging at ensuring young arsonists did not re-offend.

Of the 14 young arsonists studied at the centre, each had on average lit 15 fires and research suggested that most of the children thought that they would never be caught. Studies there found that "playing with fire" was part of a child's natural curiosity. Surveys show that almost a third of children up to four expressed an interest in or actually played with fire, Mr Muckley said.

Banker's farewell spree cost his job

By Peter Victor

A COUTTS Bank manager who spent thousands of pounds of rival firms' money after being given two years to live was rightly dismissed, an industrial tribunal ruled yesterday. David Bright, a £23,000-a-year customer account manager, decided to go out with a bang after doctors told him, wrongly, that he was suffering from an incurable bone disease.

Mr Bright, aged 30, of Becontree Heath, east London, claimed that he was unfairly dismissed by Coutts last May. The tribunal, at Chelsea, southwest London, rejected the claim, although it considered that the rule banning staff from borrowing elsewhere was outdated.

Mr Bright owed £20,000 to other banks and moneylenders, in breach of Coutts' regulations barring staff from banking with other companies. Before doctors realised their mistake, Mr

Bright had spent £5,000 on a holiday in Florida, £13,000 on a BMW and had borrowed £8,000 from his father. Before being dismissed, he had helped to run Coutts' Strand branch in central London. He said that he was devastated at losing his job.

Andrew Hogarth, his representative, said that Mr Bright was told in 1989 that he had about two years to live. On leaving hospital, he went on a spending spree as the consequences no longer seemed relevant.

He eventually owned up to his borrowing, hoping that the bank would help to bail him out of trouble.

Rachel Davies, tribunal chairman, said: "However old-fashioned the regulation, whatever its future prospect of abolition, however defunct the reason for its origin, the facts remain it was still in force when Mr Bright maintained outside accounts."



Pas de deux: Dame Alicia Markova, the prima ballerina, with a half-length bronze of herself at the National Portrait Gallery yesterday. The bronze was made by the late Richard Browne in 1961. Dame Alicia agreed to sit for the sculptor after she had unveiled his Family Group in Crawley. The half-length bronze has been given to the gallery by the sculptor's family. Another cast belongs to the Royal Ballet School.

Ultimatum to Jersey judge is lifted

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE government has lifted an ultimatum to a senior judge in Jersey that he leave office in seven days or be dismissed after members of the island's parliament unanimously challenged the order.

Sir Clive Whitmore, the permanent secretary at the Home Office, has agreed to postpone removing the island's deputy bailiff from office until after he has seen a delegation of eight MPs from the island next week.

The ultimatum to Vernon Tomes, aged 61, led hundreds of his supporters to protest in St Helier at British government interference in the island's affairs. Mr Tomes, whose role as deputy bailiff includes acting as a High Court judge, was summoned to the Home Office last week after complaints from lawyers and the Jersey Law Society about delays of up to four years in the delivery of reserved judgments.

Sir Peter Crill, the island's bailiff, said yesterday that in 1988, Mr Tomes, who was appointed in 1986, had been relieved of dealing with current cases so that he could clear the backlog of reserved judgments.

In 1990, David Waddington, then home secretary, gave Mr Tomes six months to clear the backlog and in October last year Kenneth Baker gave him three months to put things right, Sir Peter said.

Last night, supporters of Mr Tomes accused the government of failing to take into account testimonials in his support or of recognising the efforts he had made to deal with the matter.

Bird sets twitchers aflutter

By Kerry Gill

PLANELOADS of "twitchers" descended on Shetland yesterday, desperate to catch a glimpse of the rare Pine Grosbeak, last reported to be sitting in a spruce tree in a Lerwick garden. The sighting was described by birdwatching enthusiasts as a "real blockbuster".

The breed, last seen in Britain on Lindisfarne, Northumberland, 17 years ago, usually lives in northern Scandinavia and parts of Russia. Pine Grosbeaks are about the same size as large crossbills, with a short, stubby beak and a golden-coloured head and breast.

Late yesterday, about 40 twitchers had begun a close watch on the bird, which is either a female or young male. Although the aim of twitchers is to record spotting as possible, the Pine Grosbeak will be just as enthralled at the sight of the



SHETLAND
The pine grosbeak
Lerwick

birdwatchers since it is unlikely to have seen a human being before, let alone hundreds with binoculars pressed over their noses.

Chris Donald, of the Shetland bird club, said that it may have been on the mainland island for two weeks, as a gardener had reported seeing a "large crossbill" for some time. "In twitchers' jargon, this is a real blockbuster," he said that the twitchers would give the bird as much space as possible although, if it remains

on the Shetlands, even more are expected to fly in today and over the weekend.

Twitchers will drop almost anything, even risking their jobs, on hearing that a rare bird has arrived in the British Isles. One recently admitted that he had run up an overdraft of £20,000 in travelling costs. Others have had to change jobs constantly after employers grew tired of them "going sick" whenever an exotic bird was reported in some distant spot.

Twitchers will brave storms to reach remote islands, spend freezing nights in the open and put up with the ridicule of locals in their desperation to record as many species as possible. Ron Johns of Staines, west London, has had 486 sightings. Last night, as scheduled flights brought more twitchers into Sumburgh airport, it emerged that 15 of them had chartered an aircraft from Aberdeen.

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65% OFF LAMSWORTH	£2554.97	£2315	£1239.97

Cheapest heart care 'proves the best'

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE cheapest treatment for heart attacks is also the best, according to what is claimed as the biggest trial in the history of medicine.

The results of the trial, co-ordinated from the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford and published tomorrow in *The Lancet*, show that a combination of the clot-busting drug streptokinase with aspirin is as effective as more modern and much more expensive drugs - tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) and anistreplase (APSAC). It is also safer, causing fewer strokes from bleeding into the brain.

Dr Roy Collins, co-ordinator of the trial, said: "Both this trial and an earlier one involving 20,000 patients indicate no survival differences whatsoever - either in the short term or in the longer term - but there are about four extra strokes per thousand patients given tPA."

The results will disappoint Wellcome PLC, manufacturers of tPA, and SmithKline Beecham, who make APSAC. They provided £4 million to Oxford University to fund the study that has shown their expensive developed drugs to be no better and in some ways worse than the long established streptokinase.

The study collected data on 41,299 patients from 1,000 hospitals in 20 countries.

Health
L&T section, pages 5, 6

Labelling promotes healthier diets

By Our Science Editor

FOOD labels designed to help people to eat a healthy diet have been developed by the Coronary Prevention Group. They describe the nutrient contents of food in terms of "high", "low" and "medium".

According to the group, consumers are baffled by nutrient levels in foods which are described in a variety of scales.

The Co-op said yesterday that it would be adopting the group's scheme. The labels

nutrition information	
100 GRAMS OF THIS PRODUCT TYPICALLY PROVIDES	
Energy Value	NOT A (PER 100g)
0.5 grams of Protein	MEDIAN
0.5 grams of Carbohydrate	LOW
0.5 grams of Fat	MEDIAN
0.5 grams of Fibre	MEDIAN
0.5 grams of Sodium	MEDIAN
0.5 grams of Sugar	MEDIAN

Diet advice: how the labels would look

will show levels of energy, protein, carbohydrate, sugars, fat, saturated fat, dietary fibre and sodium.

The Food and Drink Federation said yesterday that the new system could promote the erroneous concept of "good" and "bad" foods. "The risk is that consumers will pay undue attention to individual foods without considering their role or importance in the whole diet," a spokesman said.

Come April, there's one bill that'll get the vote of the house. (The gas bill.)

That's because there will be no increase in the price of gas to your home this April. Taking inflation into account, that means a fall in prices in real terms.

And because the new formula agreed with the Office of Gas Supply (OFGAS) ensures that gas prices keep well below the inflation rate, you can be sure of still better value in years to come.

One thing that is changing is the unit which tells you how much gas you've used. We're standardising to kilowatt hours, but this won't in any way affect the cost of your gas.

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Police videos fuel fears of Heathrow theft racket

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

HEATHROW police and security chiefs believe they have uncovered a sophisticated racket involving the theft of high value goods and cash from passengers' baggage being transferred between international flights.

Detectives acting in the wake of reports of missing items installed secret video cameras to film security guards as they hand-searched passengers' bags after they had passed through x-ray machines in the airport's transfer area. They claim to have recorded several men taking cameras, cash, gifts and high-technology equipment from luggage, which must be searched on government orders in an attempt to thwart potential bombers.

None of the passengers whose bags were tampered with had any idea that they might have been robbed and none has made a formal complaint, but police traced the passengers to destinations around the world and are trying to establish the full extent of the losses.

They believe that some bags which had been opened, and from which property was taken, were deliberately sent to the wrong destination to try to confuse passengers and investigators.

What appears to be an alleged new wave of thefts has surprised police and security experts who believed they had nearly eliminated the airport's "thief" reputation. Though about three million items of checked baggage pass through Heathrow each week police say they receive only about two complaints a day about theft or missing items. Many turn out to have been mislaid.

In recent years, checked-in baggage has been placed in sealed containers for delivery to aircraft cargo holds, making it nearly impossible to tamper with. Strict security controls introduced after the Lockerbie bombing helped to raise public awareness of the need to keep a constant watch on luggage but the heightened security measures also provided the opportunity for theft in transfer areas.

Worries that luggage might go missing at airports have led to passengers taking as much hand baggage on aircraft as possible. Airlines are becoming concerned because overhead lockers are not capable of withstanding the force created by large, heavy bags in an emergency. Pressure is growing for international legislation banning cabin bags above a certain size and weight.

Technically passengers are supposed to take one item of hand luggage on board which must not weigh more than 11lb and measure 115 centimetres — height plus length plus width. That is only a recommendation and it is often ignored, especially by business and first class passengers who say they need to get away quickly after a flight rather than wait for hold luggage to be delivered.

The British Luggage Association, which represents 36 manufacturers producing £260 million cases and bags each year, is trying to draw up a set of standards for in-flight bags before legislation is introduced. Meanwhile, manufacturers are producing ever more expandable and attractive cases.

In a separate report, Penny Green, a lecturer in law at Southampton University, said that there were indications that Nigeria had become important as a transit zone for opium from the East because of the success of the West in blocking other routes.

Some 37 per cent of defendants were British, 16 per cent were Nigerian, 4 per cent were from other African countries and 9 per cent were Colombian. The initial results of the survey, which covered the six months to the end of February, were presented at a conference on drug couriers in London yesterday.

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Giant in disguise hops into view

BY KERRY GILL

PROBABLY the world's largest grasshopper, certainly the biggest to have jumped into Britain, reluctantly paraded itself for the first time in public yesterday.

In spite of being 10in long, the grasshopper's bright green camouflage made it difficult to spot. So difficult, in fact, that her owners at Edinburgh's butterfly farm believed that it had escaped, before locating it hiding in foliage.

No one has been able to identify the grasshopper, which came from the Malaysia-Thailand border.

John Calvert, manager of Edinburgh Butterfly and Insect World, who first came across the species in the Malaysian rainforest, said: "Relating it to all known records about grasshoppers there is just nothing to compare with it. It can leap 15 feet."

The grasshopper's owners hope that it mated before being sent to Scotland and will produce some young.



One jump ahead: Mr Calvert with the grasshopper

Law demanded to protect peat bogs

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

DEMANDS are being made by conservationists that the next government should take urgent action to save Britain's remaining bogs from destruction by peat-mining companies.

Modern technology has seen huge areas of peat bog ripped up, and the Peat Campaign Consortium believes that the bogs could soon be wiped out, along with a wealth of flora and fauna, without effective legislation.

"The activities of the peat companies have turned parts of the British landscape into a moonscape overnight," David Bellamy, the television naturalist and consortium spokesman, said. "Real protection for peat bogs is dependent on an urgent change of law, or government providing conservation agencies and local authorities with generous additional funds."

Companies were given permission to mine peat in the 1940s and 1950s, before the arrival of modern technology or conservationists. Now more a million cubic metres of peat is extracted annually from bogs notified as sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), because planning

permission to mine overrides conservation legislation.

English Nature has created preservation areas on some sites but often these are surrounded by mined bog. "As the rest of the bog is worked, it dries out and this spreads to the nature reserves," Caroline Steel, of English Nature, said. "On Thorne Moors near Doncaster, 4,000 species depend on wet conditions and these are now threatened by dry bogland."

The consortium, composed of leading wildlife organisations, wants the government to end peat extraction on all SSSIs by spring next year and to halt mining on all other bogs of natural importance by March 1994. Dr Bellamy urged gardeners to follow the example of the Prince of Wales and the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew in buying peat-free compost.

David Trippier, environment minister, said that the outgoing government was committed to the work of English Nature, and authorities should bid for more money to protect peatland. Labour has said that it will call for a moratorium on peat extraction.

Headache rise for working parents

BY STAFF REPORTER

JUGGLING the twin demands of job and children is to blame for an increase in tension headaches, although fewer people use them as a reason for taking time off work, according to a survey published yesterday.

More women than men suffer from headaches. Men tended to blame their jobs and the pressure of work, but women put more emphasis on coping with raising a family, particularly if they were at work.

The survey of 168 headache sufferers, carried out by Michael Petre Research Partnership for Marion Merrell Dow, manufacturers of painkillers, found that people in all classes had tension headaches which lasted for hours rather than minutes, as a similar survey in 1977 found.

In 1977, 67 per cent of people surveyed said that they would not take time off from work but this figure has risen to 76 per cent. Few people go to the doctor over headaches, whereas 15 years ago one in two did.

Cocaine dominates drug runs

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

COCAINE is the substance most frequently found on drug smugglers at Heathrow airport, a survey shows.

Almost half of the 149 people who appeared at Uxbridge magistrates' court, west London, over a six month period, accused of drug smuggling at Heathrow were alleged to have been carrying cocaine. The survey, by Middlesex area probation service, showed that 34 per cent were said to have had cannabis, 14 per cent heroin and the rest other drugs.

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Managers' rises outstrip inflation

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

AVERAGE pay rises for managers have beaten the rate of inflation in the past year, a survey shows today.

The larger increases of the late 80s are rapidly slowing, however, with companies "more realistic" about the rises that they can afford, according to Reward, the pay research company which carried out the survey.

Salaries of people employed between senior manager and clerical levels rose on average 7.1 per cent over the year from March 1991 against an average rise of 9.6 per cent in the previous year. The present inflation rate is 4.1 per cent.

Companies surveyed predicted a further drop in pay settlements this year, with rises for managers falling to an average 5.9 per cent, still almost 2 points above the inflation rate if it stays at today's levels.

The recession seems to have made few dents in salaries in the South-East or in London, where pay was 5 per cent and 17 per cent respectively above last year's national mean of £18,200. Middle-managers in London typically earned £21,069,

compared with £18,948 in the South-East and £16,335 in the West Midlands.

The areas hardest hit, the survey says, are the North-East and South-West, where salaries have fallen to almost 8 per cent below the national average.

From the consumer heyday of the mid-80s, managerial salaries have risen by more than 50 per cent. The biggest increases over the past five years have been for senior managers and for senior clerical staff, including secretaries, sales executives and assistant personnel officers, with rises of 55.5 and 55.3 per cent respectively.

That could, however, be as much due to companies making larger redundancies in these areas of their workforce, cutting numbers but leaving those still employed on higher salaries. The survey was conducted among 1,000 companies with a total workforce of more than one million.

Management Salary Survey March 1992 (The Reward Group, Reward House, Diamond Way, Stone Business Park, Stone, Staffs ST15 0SD; £180)



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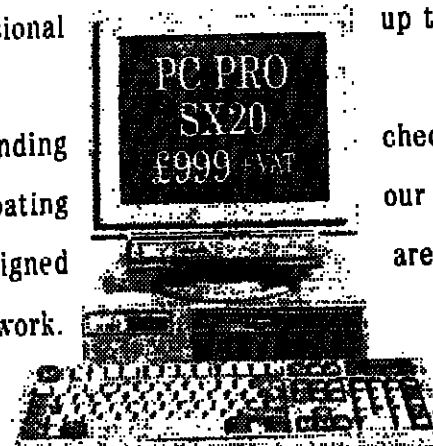
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North Sea helicopter crash

Investigators find no fault on helicopter

By KERRY GILL

A PRELIMINARY report into the North Sea helicopter crash in which 11 men died this month has found no mechanical fault that might have caused the accident.

Data from the "black box" recovered from the wreckage had so far shown no "airworthiness abnormality", the Air Accidents Investigation Branch said. The report was published yesterday into the loss of the Super Puma, which was taking oil workers from Shell's Cormorant Alpha platform 100 miles northeast of Shetland to the Safe Supporter "hotel" 200 yards away in a snowstorm.

Six of the 17 men on board the Bristow flight survived, although the first was not rescued for 30 minutes. There will now be further investigations to discover why the helicopter ditched, and examination of its performance under the prevailing conditions, of procedures taken by the flight crew and of the aircraft's structural integ-

ity, survival aids and search and rescue facilities.

The Super Puma took off at 7.48pm on March 14. Within 15 seconds of its climb it started a progressive descent and crashed two minutes later, according to the report.

A distress message was sent from Cormorant Alpha and at least five surface vessels went to the scene. At the time there were frequent moderate or heavy showers of hail or snow, with visibility in places down to 350 yards and cloud at between 500ft and 800ft. Wind speed was at times 58 knots and waves 36ft.

George Watson, one survivor, later described clinging to the remains of a liferaft and watching helplessly as a colleague lost his grip and was washed away. Ian Hooker, the co-pilot, died, and Jonathan Shelborne, the pilot, survived with minor injuries. Ten passengers were killed.

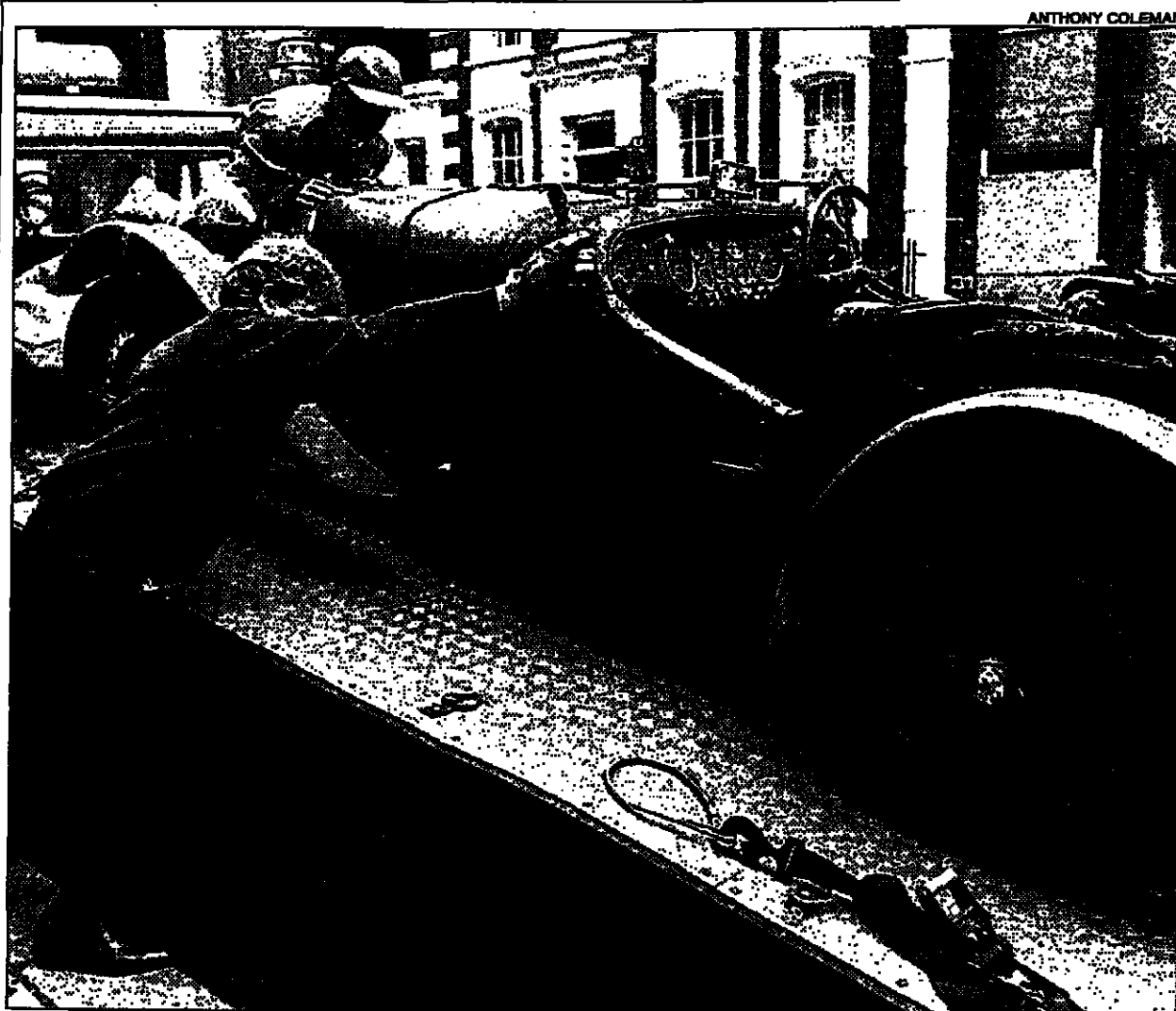
Until then the Super Pumas had logged 300,000 flying hours in the Shell oilfield

without a death. At least 80 people have died in helicopter crashes in the North Sea over the past 25 years.

William Gibson, of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, which has 3,000 members offshore, questioned whether the Super Puma should have been allowed to fly in such bad conditions. The fleet, usually connected to the platform by a bridge, had been moved away because of the storm.

Ronnie McDonald, leader of the Offshore Industry Liaison Committee, another oil workers' union, said: "There is no indication of mechanical failure. We are still convinced the policy of flying in such weather conditions should be reviewed."

Mr McDonald said search and rescue procedures had been inadequate. "The emergency standby vessel was not at hand, the search and rescue helicopter was not immediately available, and there was a lack of co-ordination."



Backing a winner: the 1948 HRG, expected to raise £12,000 at auction, being unloaded outside Sotheby's

A belated trip for classic car

By JOHN SHAW

THE decaying bulk of a classic sports car, found full of twigs and leaves near Inverness, is expected to fetch up to £12,000 when it is auctioned next week.

The 1948 1.5-litre HRG was among four race track veterans on view in Bond Street, central London, yesterday before auction by Sotheby's at RAF Hendon, northwest London.

"It looks in a bit of sorry state now but it's in remarkably original condition," Malcolm Barber, head of the firm's car department, said.

About 250 of the HRGs were built and the current example won the 1952 Scottish Rally and came first in its class in the 1953 RAC Rally. It was acquired by its late owner for £350, in 1956 but left under a tarpaulin for many years.

The other vehicles on show were a three-litre Le Mans Bentley, 8, which ran in the 24-hour French Classic in 1926, a 1934 Aston Martin Ulster and a 1955 Sunbeam Alpine works competition car.

Police urged to act over racism

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

INCIDENTS of police racism such as the "offensive humour" of the chief constable of Strathclyde cancel out all the attempts by his colleagues to forge better race relations, the chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality told an international police conference yesterday.

Earlier this week, Leslie Sharp, the chief constable of Strathclyde, was reprimanded by his police authority for telling unacceptable jokes at a cricket club dinner. Michael Day, addressing the equal opportunities conference at the Police National College, Bramshill, Hampshire, said it might take one case of police brutality, racist attitudes, holding back promotion, or offensive humour by a senior police officer "playing on crude racial stereotypes to cancel out the gains of persevering work by forces up and down the country."

He said the "feeding remains among young black men in particular that when it comes to stop and search driving checks, drugs enquiries, the police pick on them — act on the stereotypes which seemed to shape that chief constable's racist banter". Those incidents gave a more powerful message to possible recruits than daz-

zling police literature and displays. The first step must be a clear and comprehensive policy statement accepted by the police authority and the chief constable.

He suggested a programme that would include tailoring job advertisements to encourage recruits from under-represented groups; training to help recruits to meet entry requirements; a special recruitment unit; and training to help officers from racial groups to achieve promotion to higher ranks.

Fifteen per cent of the population were from ethnic minorities. The police force contained 1 per cent.



Day: criticised officer's "offensive humour"

Road toll lowest since 1948

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

ROAD deaths have fallen to their lowest level since 1948, despite a sevenfold increase in vehicles on the roads, according to provisional figures published yesterday by the transport department.

The number of people killed in road accidents in 1991 fell to 4,520. That was 13 per cent down on the 5,217 deaths in 1990 and the lowest total since 1948 when 4,513 people died.

The number of vehicles on the roads has risen from 3.7 million in 1948 to 24.7 million in 1990.

The decline in road deaths puts the government on target for reducing casualties by one third by the end of the decade. Excluding the 1948 fatality rate, the 1991 figure represents the lowest number of road deaths since statistics were first collected in 1926.

Departmental figures also showed that there were 51,499 serious injuries last year, 15 per cent down on the previous year, while the number of slight injuries fell to 254,676, an 8 per cent drop. The 4,513 fatalities included 2,018 car users, down 15 per cent; 1,485 pedestrians, down 12 per cent; and 204 child pedestrians, down 11 per cent. The remainder were made up of motorcyclists, cyclists, and those aged over 60.

The highest number of road deaths in Britain came in 1941 when 9,169 people were killed, most of them as a result of the wartime blackout. The highest peacetime road death toll was in 1966, when 13.3 million vehicles were on the roads and 7,985 people were killed.

Student's bomb jest misfires

A student was surrounded by armed police and strip-searched at Manchester airport after joking to a friend that he had a bomb in his bag.

Shaun Clarke, aged 21, a geology student at Sheffield University, was due to fly to Alicante on a study trip. Britannia Airways barred him from the flight and told him to leave the airport.

The airline said: "This might have been a joke to the person concerned, but we took it seriously. He became abusive and was told he would not be on the flight."

PC charged

Police Constable Steven Chuter, aged 27, has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving, after a crash that killed Mandy Willis, aged 36, in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Sams remand

Michael Sams, aged 50, of Sutton on Trent, Nottinghamshire, was further remanded in custody by Birmingham magistrates, charged with the murder of Julie Dart, the kidnapping of Stephanie Slater, false imprisonment and demanding money with threats.

Sea service

A catamaran capable of carrying up to 450 passengers and 80 cars is to begin a daily service between Belfast and Stranraer on June 1. The scheduled journey time will be an hour and a half.

Welsh words

S4C, the Welsh language Channel 4, is considering dubbing advertisements into Welsh.

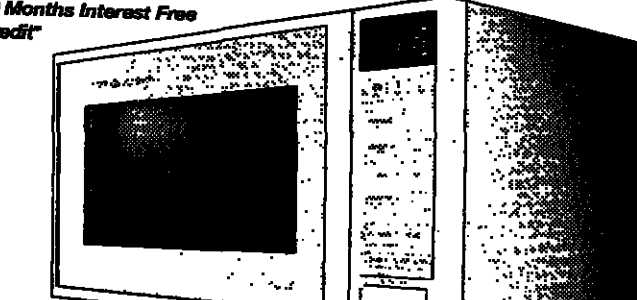
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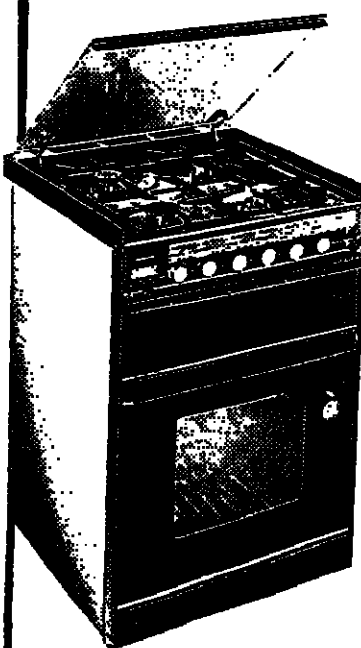
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All sides deny leaking name

The 48 hours that set election campaign alight

By Philip Webster and Robin Oakley

TORY Central Office first learnt of the case of Jennifer Bennett from a fax sent by the girl's grandfather nine days before the broadcast based on her wait for surgery was transmitted.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, said yesterday that the party did not connect the fax with the broadcast until the girl's name was published in the newspapers. He denied that Central Office gave the girl's name to newspapers. "The consultant rang us just before the broadcast went out. We said, 'If you have something you want to say about this matter, you better tell the newspapers'."

The row over who leaked Jennifer's name hijacked both parties' campaigns yesterday.

The story began at 4pm on Tuesday when journalists were invited to 4 Millbank, Labour's headquarters, for a preview of the broadcast.

The film, comparing the treatment of a young girl whose parents could afford a private operation and one who could

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not, was highly emotive and, journalists felt, effective. The opinion of most was that it would cause a row.

Afterwards, journalists pressed Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaign chief, for details. He said the film had been prompted by the case of a young girl who lived in the South-East but was not meant to be a documentary.

He and the Labour party refused to give the family's name.

Journalists travelling with Neil Kinnock had also been shown the broadcast. Julie Hall, his press secretary, revealed Jennifer's Christian name but no more.

Some time during that afternoon *The Independent* had contacted Alan Ardoun, Jennifer's consultant, with details of the case. The newspaper refused yesterday to reveal the source, but David Felton, the deputy home editor, denied that the source had been either political party or the family.

girl in the broadcast was one of his patients. They already had the name at that stage. The doctor had checked with his records and confirmed the details of the case.

The doctor told Mr Sagar that he deplored the broadcast, which was not an accurate representation of the facts of the case, but that before giving his reactions to the newspapers he wanted to hear Labour's side. The doctor was not placated by Labour's explanation and said he would talk to the papers, Mr Sagar said.

Later that night the *Express* appeared with Jennifer's name in the main story.

Wednesday was dominated by the broadcast after the surgeon and Margaret Bennett, Jennifer's mother, complained that it had distorted the circumstances of the case. The surgeon suggested an "administrative error" had been behind the delay in the girl's operation.

On Wednesday afternoon a letter from the consultant to Mr Roberts was released and appeared to support up Labour's charges. The letter, written in February, had said there was insufficient funding for nursing cover, and waiting lists had climbed enormously. Labour accused the Conservatives of trying to erect a smokescreen.

Yesterday began with an early morning press conference in Nottingham. Mr Kinnock criticised the leaking of Jennifer Bennett's name to the media. Throughout the day he insisted that "no one connected with the Labour party in any way at all or with the broadcast" had disclosed Jennifer's identity.

"I condemn without reservation whoever gave this little girl's name to the newspapers," Mr Kinnock said. "We made it clear that the broadcast was a representation of a true story and an all too typical story. None of the very small number of people involved in the broadcast who knew Jennifer's identity gave any hint of her name or the identity of any of the people directly involved in her case. To provide the newspapers



Clean hands: William Waldegrave, the health secretary, denying claims yesterday that the Tories gave Jennifer's name to newspapers

"They have been shroud-waving in one way or another for a long time, and case after case that has been examined has not been what it was held out to be in the first instance."

— John Major on Labour's claims about lack of NHS treatment

"Their suffering has been intensified by irresponsible, indeed corrupt, behaviour of newspapers. Even though we are not responsible, we are sorry for this."

— Roy Hattersley on the Bennett family

"This is a wretched distraction from the real issues."

— Paddy Ashdown on the continuing row over Labour's party political broadcast

"Keep it simple, set your vision out, be yourself, and cancel all election broadcasts."

— Advice to the prime minister from Harvey Thomas, former Conservative publicity chief

"I fell down a manhole looking for a man."

— May Teasdale, a hospital patient in a wheelchair, talking to John Major

At around 6.15 pm on Tuesday the consultant telephoned Central Office. He had been called earlier by *The Independent*, which had details of the case. He spoke to a junior press officer at Central Office, who suggested that he get in touch with the newspapers. The press officer phoned the *Daily Express* with the consultant's permission and arranged for the newspaper to speak to him.

At 6.55 pm on Tuesday the broadcast went out on ITV.

At between 7pm and 8pm the consultant rang Labour headquarters to complain about the broadcast. Gez Sagar, Labour's chief press and broadcasting officer, called back. According to Mr Sagar the doctor told him he had been contacted by *The Independent* and the *Daily Express* to tell him that the

with Jenny's name was an act either of great irresponsibility or of great cynicism.

When a reporter said that his press secretary, Ms Hall, had disclosed Jennifer's first name, Ms Hall took the unprecedented step of going to the platform. Acknowledging that she had used the word "Jennifer" when briefing journalists after showing a preview of the broadcast on Tuesday, she challenged reporters to say how that information had led to the full disclosure of Jennifer Bennett's identity.

Other journalists then rounded on Peter Hitchens, a *Daily Express* reporter.

At Labour's London news conference at 7.45am yesterday Dr Cunningham said: "It is increasingly obvious that Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, and 'Tory Central Office' were at the heart of the passing out of this information."

At 8.15am at the Tory news conference in London, the prime minister accused Lab-

our of consistently "shroud-waving" on the NHS.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, insisted on Sky News that Central Office had not leaked the identity of the family to the press. "It was the *Daily Express* that uncovered it. Newspaper reports saying that Central Office told the *Daily Express* are not true."

Sir Nicholas Lloyd, editor of the *Daily Express*, said on ITN at 12.30pm: "It is Labour that gave us the facts." He claimed that Jennifer was first named to *The Independent* by Labour. But *Independent* home news desk editor John Price said: "That is wholly untrue. We got the information from our own journalistic sources."

Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* that disclosure of the girl's name placed "an intolerable burden" on her family. "Their suffering through their daughter's illness has been intensified by irresponsible, indeed corrupt, be-

haviour of newspapers. Even though we are not responsible, we are sorry for this."

Tackled on the issue during a visit to Cambridge, Mr Major quoted from an answer given by Mr Patten at a news conference on Wednesday, when he was asked how the girl's name became known so quickly. According to Mr Kinnock, he replied: "I understand that the doctor concerned recognised the case and the information came from the doctor."

At 2pm, Labour's fourth news conference of the day on health, shadow health secretary Robin Cook said Jennifer's father was consulted throughout the making of the film — although it was not meant as a documentary of her specific case — and produced a voice-over which in the event was not used.

During the afternoon Jennifer's grandfather Peter Lee-Roberts, a lifelong Tory and former mayor of Faversham, disclosed that, having discovered that Jennifer was being

used in a Labour party election broadcast, he had sent a fax to Central office alerting them to the broadcast, but not in any way identifying his grand-daughter. Jennifer's mother Margaret denied that Mr Lee-Roberts, her father, had leaked the girl's name.

Then came the Waldegrave bombshell. At 4pm he denied emphatically that anybody at Central Office or in his department or his adviser Richard Marsh had revealed the child's name. But he faced a battery of questions as he disclosed that Mr Ardoun had rung Central Office which had "helped the consultant to get in touch with the newspaper."

Mr Waldegrave said Chris Patten, the party chairman, suggested on Wednesday that Mr Ardoun may have first revealed the girl's name. "It is now absolutely clear that the surgeon did not do that."

By 6pm Andreas Whitam-Smith, editor of *The Independent*, refused to say who disclosed Jennifer's identity to his newspaper. "It was not a political source."

Shaun Woodward, the Tory director of communications, said last night: "We did not leak the name to the newspapers... The prime minister knew nothing about it. That is a categorical denial."

Sir Nicholas Lloyd said on Sky: "Let me make it categorically clear, nobody in the Tory party told us the name of the girl or the name of the parents."

Robin Cook called for Mr Waldegrave's resignation for "inciting professional misconduct."

used in a Labour party election broadcast, he had sent a fax to Central office alerting them to the broadcast, but not in any way identifying his grand-daughter. Jennifer's mother Margaret denied that Mr Lee-Roberts, her father, had leaked the girl's name.

Then came the Waldegrave bombshell. At 4pm he denied emphatically that anybody at Central Office or in his department or his adviser Richard Marsh had revealed the child's name. But he faced a battery of questions as he disclosed that Mr Ardoun had rung Central Office which had "helped the consultant to get in touch with the newspaper."

Mr Waldegrave said Chris Patten, the party chairman, suggested on Wednesday that Mr Ardoun may have first revealed the girl's name. "It is now absolutely clear that the surgeon did not do that."

By 6pm Andreas Whitam-Smith, editor of *The Independent*, refused to say who disclosed Jennifer's identity to his newspaper. "It was not a political source."

Shaun Woodward, the Tory director of communications, said last night: "We did not leak the name to the newspapers... The prime minister knew nothing about it. That is a categorical denial."

Sir Nicholas Lloyd said on Sky: "Let me make it categorically clear, nobody in the Tory party told us the name of the girl or the name of the parents."

Robin Cook called for Mr Waldegrave's resignation for "inciting professional misconduct."

Roses put Major in the pink

The prime minister spoke of his love of gardening as he was given a new strain of a rose named Norma Major at a garden centre at Poppleton, near York.

John Major said he had bought his house at Great Sukeley, Cambridgeshire, mainly for its big garden. He had planted several of the variety last year and joked: "They are going to be pink — you can't get blue ones."

Lamont upbeat

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, says that the recession is nearly beaten. Speaking in Harlow, Essex, the Tory marginal, he said the recovery would start "shortly".

Poverty jibe

Britain is in danger of becoming the "poverty pay capital of Europe" Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, said in Glasgow. The Tories opposed a national minimum wage and would abolish wages councils.

Wages councils, page 10

Welsh denial

David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, denied suggestions that a £2.5 million package for West Wales was timed to help Nicholas Bennett, his Welsh Office minister, who is defending his Pembroke seat.

Hunt for mole dominates day's proceedings

By Jill Sherman
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JULIE Hall, Neil Kinnock's press secretary, stepped from behind the scenes to take over the leader's press conference yesterday. She marched up to the podium in the Albert Hall, Nottingham, to defend herself against charges that she had leaked the name of the girl at the centre of the dispute over the broadcast.

After her unexpected intervention, the conference was turned on its head as reporters ignored the platform and began aggressively interviewing each other.

The bizarre events began when Mr Kinnock, attempting to clear the Labour party of any involvement in naming Jennifer Bennett, said: "First I condemn without reservation whoever gave this little girl's name to the newspapers. None of the very small number of people involved in the broadcast who knew Jen-

ny's identity gave any hint of her name or the identity of any of the people directly involved in the case. To provide the newspapers with Jenny's name was an act either of great irresponsibility or of great cynicism."

But journalists would not let the matter drop. A reporter from *The Sun* asked: "Are you aware that on Tuesday afternoon at a Manchester hotel press briefing your press secretary disclosed Jennifer's name, first name, christian name, in an off-the-record briefing with journalists?"

Mr Kinnock said: "That contradicts all of my information." A chorus of "No, no no" arose from the assembled press. Minutes later he reiterated: "I utterly condemn anyone who has disclosed information to enable the identification of Jenny Bennett or her family."

At this point Ms Hall, aged 33, who has been Mr Kinnock's press secretary for two years, astonished those on the platform by stepping forward. Angry and upset by the implication that she had leaked more than the christian name of the child, Ms Hall said: "If you are saying from the briefing on Tuesday that you journalists were able to reveal the identity of the child and the family it is you who have done that. The adult who did that should come up and admit it now."

Ms Hall said she had

moved from her job as a reporter for ITN to work for the Labour party because of her belief in the national health service and then told how her father had once paid for private treatment for an eye complaint. "My father could pay. He had the choice. Unfortunately, there are people out there in this country who can't."

Her voice breaking, she added: "Whichever one of you at that briefing on Tuesday can tell me that from the one word Jennifer you would have been able to have that story in the *Express*, I would like to hear from you now."

Journalists swooped on Peter Hitchens of the *Daily Express*. Mr Hitchens, chal-

lenged by the *Daily Mirror* and BBC radio, denied the story had been a follow up from *The Independent*, which also named the girl, or had come from the Labour party. He said it had not come from the consultant concerned. However he refused to deny seven times that the story had come from the Tory party. Pressed again on whether he had been tipped off by the Conservatives, he said: "I did not get it from the Labour party. Ask the Labour party to whom they supplied the information as it was the only possible source."

The Independent said later that its comments had come from its reporter's own endeavours.

In politics, real men are called Dave

When Denis Healey arrives in the West Midlands to play the piano in an old folk's home, something must be amiss. When the seat is one which Labour had held by a comfortable 6,000, something is badly amiss. When they send Roy Hattersley, too, there is a real problem. And when party workers are diverted from the winnable Tory marginal next door, the problem must be serious.

I went in search of the problem yesterday. All over Coventry South East, posters told me where to look. I found the problem in a snowstorm at the Rolls-Royce factory gates, haranguing the workers through a megaphone, while his supporters rattled collecting tins and plastic buckets. "I play the piano, too," said Dave Nellist. "But I haven't had time to practise like Healey."

Coventry suits Nellist. It is a hard-bitten city. There is something raw about the place. "People talk about 'hard' and 'soft' votes," Nellist's agent told me. "Well, our hard vote is hard. Very hard." The agent turned to one of his helpers. "Dave, take this man to the Rolls-Royce factory gates, where Dave is."

When Dave and I got there a journalist from the *Socialist* called Dave. Was interviewing Dave. "Why is everyone on the hard left called Dave?" I

CAMPAIGN SKETCH

MATTHEW PARRIS

asked. "We were all christened Quentin, but we changed it," was the reply.

The Dave, Dave Nellist, has been the local Labour MP since 1983 but has recently been expelled from his party, ostensibly for refusing to denounce Militant. Fashions among Labour have changed while he has not. Nellist has been beached by a receding tide: ideological driftwood, but still a log to be reckoned with: no fool and no slouch.

So, standing against an official Labour candidate, Nellist styles himself "a Labour independent for a Labour government". He will support Labour whether Labour wants him to or not. He lives in the adjoining constituency whose own Labour MP has been Geoffrey Robinson. "I've put Geoffrey Robinson's posters in my windows but Geoffrey spends his mornings touring my constituency in his chauffeur-driven Jag asking my constituents to take my posters down." And whose posters were in Robinson's window? "Geoffrey lives

in a Lutyens mansion in Surrey, mate." It was time for his speech to the workers emerging for their lunchbreak. "Come over and hear Dave Nellist!" shouted an assistant through a tinny megaphone. "A workers' MP on a workers' wage!"

Nellist, who has always refused to draw his full MP's salary, looked worn and tired and unusually strained. He exudes an anger which beats its breast to the heavens rather than intimidates the hearer. There is something of the martyr about him, waiting to be stoned. He treated a small crowd of workers in a biting wind to a litany of the woes of Coventry. Snowflaked glanced from his face. Nellist looked skyward and began to enlarge on the evils of Toryism. The rank grew, the volume swelled. The snow stopped. A burst of pale sunshine lit his grey face and wispy beard.

Later, Nellist was to address workers at the Hare and Squirrel public house, but for now he had finished. The workers began to drift away, and the rain started.

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Study shows Budget has cost the poor £1 a week since 1979

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

AN AVERAGE household has gained £18 a week from changes in Britain's tax and benefit system during the 13 years of Conservative government, but the benefits have been severely skewed towards the better off. According to a report released yesterday by the Institute of Fiscal Studies, the poorest 10 per cent of households have lost an average of £1 weekly as a result of Tory tax and benefits policy, while the top 10 per cent have gained £87 a week.

The institute's figures seemed certain to be welcomed by the Labour party as moral justification for its proposals to raise the tax burden on the better off.

The study showed that the cost of Labour's shadow Budget to the richest 10 per cent of families would be £35 a week. But institute officials said that its long-term assessment could not be directly compared with the analysis of gainers and losers from the

three main parties' 1992-3 budget proposals. The long-term analysis was based on households, rather than families, and was bound to show large gains for most people in work, because its indexation assumptions were based on retail prices, rather than average earnings, which had risen much faster.

The institute study included a detailed analysis of the three main parties' budget proposals, with several politically significant findings:

□ In London, the South-East and the South-West a larger net number of families would gain from the Conservative budget than from Labour's plans. The opposite would be true in the rest of the country.

□ Families with incomes of up to £400 a week would gain an average of £3 from Labour's proposals. The Liberal Democrats' plans would offer the poorest families much more. Families

with less than £49 a week would gain £9 from the Lib Dems, while families on £50 to £99 would gain £5. Under the Tories families below £100 a week would gain only £1.

□ Despite the big benefits to the very poor, the Liberal plans would be far less expensive to the better off. Families with incomes above £999 would lose £51 a week under the Lib Dems, but £106 under Labour. The Tory budget would cost them £1 a week.

□ The Labour and Liberal budget would both result in average net losses for families with working parents. Under Labour's proposals, more such families would gain than lose, but the losses of the losers would be much higher than the gains of the gainers. Under the Liberal plan more families would lose than gain, but the maximum losses would be much smaller than with Labour.



Face to face: Michael Heseltine, the environment minister, campaigning in Oxford with his wife Anne, met his Spittin' Image at an exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum and confessed he would like to buy it. His wife said she would never have it in the house.

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YOUNG GUNS II, BLAZE OF GLORY
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Advertising

Labour's style wows America

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

LABOUR'S admen are being sought by political advertising consultants in America, who have been, in the words of one of them, "wowed" by the party's drama-documentary style commercials. "US negative advertising with a British twist," Tom Edmonds, a Republican political consultant, said.

Although ready to take full credit for developing television political advertising and for introducing hard-hitting "attack" commercials, American admen were uncharacteristically humble yesterday and would not accept the suggestion that Labour's broadcast was merely an export from the US.

"I can think of one or two shows using that kind of drama-documentary style that have been used in campaigns here but nothing like Labour's," Mr Edmonds, vice-president of the American Association of Political Consultants, said. "What Labour has done is to pick up on the re-enactments that are used the whole time in documentaries and programmes like *Crimewatch UK*. Most people get their information and form their opinions from anecdotal information."

Mr Edmonds dismissed Tory claims that Labour's commercial was somehow an under-the-belt broadcast. "I believe as long as the issue is germane it is fair game," he said.

Other consultants cited a recent commercial produced by Bob Squires, the doyen of Democratic admen, for a Senate campaign which

showed a farmer crying as property was repossessed. "It is all part of moving the electoral process from the heart to the head," Ray Stroth, who worked on the Ga. Hart campaign in 1986, said.

Manipulative it might be, the consultants here argue that television is a technological asset to democracy as commercials can help to identify important issues.

The attack adverts so here during the current race for the White House have tended to explore the personal records of rival candidates. Four years ago, the level mud-slinging was especially high. In a startling development after the 1986 election a Republican candidate for state legislative seat in Minnesota was indicted on charges of breaching a state's campaign practice act.

The Labour commercial may in the future be as influential in British advertising circles as the 1964 "Dad's Army" advert was in developing American television campaigning. Produced for the Lyndon Johnson campaign and aimed at undermining Barry Goldwater, the advert showed a little girl plucking the petals from a daisy, counting inaccurately. The frayed fringes. A male voice starts different kind of countdown. The camera zooms in on the girl's eyes. An atomic mushroom cloud erupts and Johnson intones: "We must stick together, or we must die. The stakes are too high if you to stay at home."

Hung parliament is European view

AFTER a week of bemused British election watching, 100 MPs from all over Europe yesterday gave their verdict in a mock poll and voted for that most European of results — a hung parliament.

They had sat through the election broadcasts, witnessed the furor, puzzled over the newspapers writing about the broadcasts and spent a day talking to voters on the doorstep, usually about the broadcasts. Most were amazed at the fuss caused by ten minutes of television and the power of that medium.

For a group of young, enthusiastic politicians, the 46 per cent turnout was distressingly low when voting took place between seminars at the Future of Europe conference in London.

In the end, party loyalties won with 22 of those on the right of centre voting Conservative and 16 socialist delegates supporting Labour. François Pauli, a French socialist, enthused about Neil Kinnock, calling him charismatic and cooler than Mr Major. Eastern Europeans tended to vote Liberal Democrat, perhaps identifying with the newest party.

Indulis Berzins said that it had been an election dominated by the media —

Alison Roberts discovers what European MPs think of Britain's election

he had been following it himself in the Baltics on satellite television. As leader of the Latvian right of centre majority faction his vote went to John Major. "I think in Latvia it is very necessary to have policies that are a little bit like the Conservative policies," he said as socialist eyebrows rose around the room.

One German Bundestag member said: "Of course the result is not valid with this way of voting." The first past the post system was widely condemned and the best method of proportional representation debated in true European style with no one agreeing and everyone talking.

But the final result pleased most. A hung parliament was nothing to be afraid of, a Russian delegate said. Unfortunately the Italians, masters at solving the problems of political alliances, had withdrawn their delegation at the last moment. They face a real election next week and were making their own election broadcasts.

Zohra's story is not even unusual.

ON November 30th, 1991, soldiers entered the village of Imamuddin Para, in Burma's Arakan province.

They burst open the door of the village grocery store, seized the shopkeeper, Imam Hussain, and marched him outside.

Placing a heavy box of ammunition on his shoulders, they informed him that he was now a porter for the Burmese Army.

The weight was crushing. After a few miles Hussain protested that he did not have the strength to carry it any further.

The soldiers responded by giving him a savage beating.

Then they took him and nailed him to a tree with his arms outstretched.

They cut off his penis and put it into his mouth. They severed his nose and ripped off his eyebrows.

At last, a soldier thrust a bayonet into his chest and, mercifully, Imam Hussain died.

"My sister's little heart could take no more."

Hussain's wife, Zohra Begum, was at home seven miles away when news of the tragedy reached her.

She ran all the way to the spot and found her husband's mutilated body still nailed to the tree.

In a daze of horror and grief – hardly knowing what she was doing – Zohra started back for help.

She had almost reached home when an evil chance brought her face to face with the soldiers who had killed her husband.

They showed their pity for the sobbing woman by gang-raping her.

A week later, the same soldiers took Zohra and her twelve-year-old sister to the Lawadong army camp, where they were locked in a room with about forty other female captives.

Soldiers would enter the room, choose a woman, and repeatedly rape her in front of all the others.

Zohra said, "After five days my sister's little heart could take it no more. She went into convulsions and died. When the soldiers saw that I, too, could take no more, they freed me."

Zohra's story is not even unusual.

We'd probably never have heard Zohra's story had she not managed to escape to a refugee camp in Bangladesh, where she met Jon Swain of the Sunday Times. The savagery of what happened to her

and her family might tempt you to think that it's an extreme case – the work of madmen – but it isn't.

Zohra's was by no means the only horrible story in the Sunday Times article.

And over the last few weeks many more atrocities have been reported in the newspapers.

None of this is even new.

Amnesty reports published in November 1990 and January 1992 gave the world details of what was happening in Burma – or Myanmar, as it is now called by its military rulers.

We reveal that the Burmese army was conscripting villagers to serve as porters, sometimes

killing them when they became too weak or too ill to carry their loads.

We told how village women are living in fear of gang-rape.

We told the story of a muslim woman who was forced to be a porter in April 1991. She was beaten to death by soldiers after she suffered an epileptic seizure which made it impossible for her to carry her load.

Surely something can be done to help.

Reading this, there's probably just one thing you want to know. What can be done to help?

The answer is, nothing.

Burma is a closed country.

The soldiers who crucified her husband and raped her 12-year-old sister to death will do it again. And again. And again. And there's nothing we can do to stop them.

that the terror stop – but to no avail. The military junta don't give a damn what you, or Amnesty, or anyone else, think of them and their butchery.

And although we will continue to do everything in our power to help people trapped in Burma, right now it seems as though nothing can end the nightmare.

Absolutely nothing.

What should we do when we can do nothing?

When our pity and anger can alter nothing; when we see pain we cannot heal, grief we cannot comfort; when our generosity is as useless as indifference – what should we do then?

Should we despair and do nothing?

Thirty years ago, Peter Benenson founded Amnesty International with these words: "It is better to light one candle than curse the darkness."

In the instant that you are reading this, somewhere a man is crying under torture.

Somewhere, a terrified woman is about to be raped.

Thousands of families are in anguish because their loved ones have "disappeared."

Thousands are unjustly imprisoned with little hope of release.

What's the point of getting angry about not being able to help Zohra, if you're not willing to help these people?

You can do a lot to help them. Every day, Amnesty brings hope to prisoners of conscience all over the world. When we expose what governments are doing public anger often forces them to stop.

All it need cost you to support this work is about one minute of your time and a

modest membership fee.

We've asked you many times before to join us. Perhaps you've meant to respond, but just never got around to it.

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If only you realised how valuable your help is, you wouldn't let anything stop you.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



Tories' record gets stuck as voters refuse to dance to their favourite tunes



Baker: ready to unleash the law and order issue

If the Tories lose the election, it may be as much because voters no longer care about their past successes as because of their recent failures. The old times are just not winning the response from voters that they used to do.

The theme of yesterday's Conservative press conference was, for example, Labour and the unions. John Major and fellow ministers, notably a punchy Kenneth Clarke, raised a number of pertinent questions about possible changes to trade union law if Labour wins.

But I doubt if playing the union card will have much electoral impact this time. It is not just that Labour has kept the unions, and their leaders, out of sight in the current campaign and that Tony Blair has been agile in offering reassurances that there will be no return to the union laws of the 1970s. It is mainly because voters no longer believe that the unions are a serious problem, even though dislike of them is still cited as a reason for not voting Labour.

RIDDELL ON THE ELECTION

Michael Howard talked yesterday about Saltley and Grunwick, but a third of the electorate is too young to remember those violent clashes.

Trade unions, which in the 1970s were one of the main influences on voting decisions, do not now feature on lists of the most important issues, according to recent Mori surveys. Frustrating though it must be for the Tories, that is their reward for reducing the number of strikes and for defeating Scargillism.

Similarly, on Tuesday, the Tories tried to highlight foreign affairs. It was probably the party's most successful press conference, since Mr Major and Douglas Hurd have a strong story to tell. Voters have good grounds for believing that Britain's standing in the world is safe in their hands.

But, again, I doubt if the elector-

are listening. Foreign policy barely registers among the most important issues for voters, and even Europe is down towards the bottom of the list. The importance, or salience, to voters of defence, previously a strong issue for the Tories, has declined considerably since the 1980s.

The Tory advantage, while still larger than on any other question, is less in some surveys than in either the 1983 or 1987 elections. The end of the Cold War means that current threats to peace are less immediate, while Labour has moved into the mainstream on Europe and defence. There are still differences between the parties on these matters, but it is no longer plausible for the Tories to mount a poster campaign, as they did effectively in 1987, showing a soldier with his hands up to represent Labour defence policy.

The Tories' problem is that they are strongest on the issues which the voters now care about much

less than before, and weakest on those which voters care about most, such as health, education and unemployment.

The latest row about Labour's election broadcast is a mixed blessing for the Tories. The dispute over the facts of the case on which the broadcast was based has provided them with ammunition to challenge the credibility and integrity of Neil Kinnock and has forced the Labour leadership to justify itself. But the affair has also drawn attention to health, by far the most important issue for voters, and Labour yesterday was providing many other examples of children who had to wait a long time for operations. It is too early yet to assess how far voters see the episode as damaging Labour's trustworthiness and how far it reminds them of their own and friends' worries about hospital waiting lists.

Of the eight most important issues in deciding votes, Labour is now ahead on all but three. Even

in those areas where the Tories are ahead — managing the economy, law and order and taxation — their lead has shrunk. Indeed, the lead on taxation has declined since the beginning of the campaign.

About the only strong card which the Tories have not played so far is law and order, but I doubt if we will have to wait long for Kenneth Baker to be unleashed. And more, much more, is promised on taxation.

The Tories can fairly point out that, at the last general election, they were also behind Labour on three of the key issues — education, health and unemployment — but still won by a big majority. As Ivor Crewe has argued, the answer may be that voters decide primarily on the basis of which party will most advance their personal prosperity. In 1987, that was clearly the Tories. Now the position is less clear-cut.

The government is being blamed for the recession, especial-

ly by those in the South who least expected to become unemployed. But the living standards of many in work have continued to rise steadily and have recently been boosted by a drop in mortgage rates. Hence it makes sense for the Tories to return to the taxation issue as a means of alleging that Labour policies would not only directly reduce take-home pay but would force up interest rates and weaken the housing market.

The Tories really have no choice but to follow this strategy. The positive points of their record on foreign policy and the unions are not the main priorities of voters. There is a limited extent to which any party can shift the focus during a short campaign. So far they have concentrated mainly on attacking Labour policies rather than explaining what a Tory fourth term would be like. The election will be decided by how far these warnings strike home.

Peter Riddell

Trade unions

Ministers raise ghost of flying pickets

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Transport and General Workers' Union gave more money to Labour's campaign in 1987 than the total amount raised by the Conservatives from British industry.

Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, said yesterday. As the Tories sought to switch the agenda away from health, Mr Patten joined John Major, Michael Howard, the employment secretary, and Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, in insisting that, as Mr Clarke put it, "a Labour government would be a government of the unions, by the unions and for the unions". Mr Clarke said that the unions controlled 90 per cent of the votes at Labour's party conference and sponsored more than half of Labour's MPs. They dominated decision-making, affecting the choice of candidates and policy.

Mr Clarke said that Labour was not independent, but was the political wing of the union movement. "Union money keeps Labour afloat. Union facilities keep the Labour campaign going. Union control ensures Labour dances to the unions' tunes," he said.

Mr Major said at the Conservative press conference yesterday that the record level of industrial peace achieved last year was under threat. "Strife and disruption used to dominate our national life. Flying pickets, wildcat strikes, power cuts, intimidation, confrontation, lost orders, cancelled deliveries and roaring inflation: those were the features of a country out of the control of its Labour government and under the control of its unions."

"The threat, I am afraid, is still there. Union militants are hoping desperately for a Labour government. Then organised disruption would

be back. Labour are already committed to undo some of our key reforms. Secondary pickets would be back on our streets," he said. "The truth is the unions still have a stranglehold on the Labour party."

Mr Howard quoted Neil Kinnock as saying that secondary picketing under Labour would again become "a right to be enjoyed". He said: "Miners would again be able, quite lawfully, to picket a coke depot like Saltley. The latter-day heirs to Shirley Williams would again be able, quite lawfully, to picket firms like Grunwick and lorry drivers would still be able, quite lawfully, to picket the ports in support of their pay claims."

"The clock would be turned back to the winter of discontent and the chaos of those years would return to cause catastrophe," he said. "The Labour party has clearly told the union leaders to shut up during the campaign. A Kinnock government would have to pay up the day it was over."

Mr Major and Mr Howard both signalled the likely end to wages councils during the next Conservative government. Mr Major said: "I don't believe they have a long-term future", but refused invitations to confirm that they would be scrapped.

The Confederation of British Industry attacked Labour's tax and manufacturing plans yesterday while publishing what it called the facts about business performance under the Conservatives.

The confederation said that Labour's higher-rate tax plans would damage confidence. It said that manufacturing exports were at an all-time high, 500,000 more people were employed than in 1979, and investment in skills and innovation was rising.



Eigg box: Katie Ann MacKinnon, the presiding officer on the Hebridean island of Eigg, holding the ballot box delivered to her house by helicopter yesterday

Pay regulators' days look numbered

WAGES councils have lived a charmed life under the Conservatives. The 26 councils, which set the wages of 2.34 million workers, have been the butt of criticism by every employment secretary since James Prior.

They are loathed by employment department officials, who have no wish these days to practise bureaucratic intervention in pay determination. They have been castigated as job-destroyers by small employers led by the Institute of Directors. Yet they have survived.

The prime minister's statement yesterday that "there isn't a long-term future for the wages councils" appears to confirm that abolition will not be long delayed. Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, said in Glasgow: "Having created two and a half million unemployed, the Tories now want to create two and a half million low-paid."

The wages councils have their origins in the 1909 Trade Boards Act, which set wages in four trades where pay was exceptionally low. "It is a serious national evil that any class of His Majesty's subjects should receive less than a living wage in return for their utmost exertions," Winston Churchill, the minister responsible for introducing the act, said.

In 1982, Norman Tebbit, Prior's successor, abolished a similar feature of

Wages councils are unlikely to survive after the general election, David Lipsey writes

more interventionist days. He repealed the 1946 Fair Wages Resolution, which wrote into government contracts a requirement that employers pay fair wages. Mr Tebbit hinted in the Commons that wages councils would go next.

In 1984, Tom King, Tebbit's successor, collected views on the future of councils. Proponents of abolition included the Institute for Directors. The Confederation of British Industry argued, however, that they should continue, with reduced scope. In 1985, Mr King published a consultation document. One option put forward was abolition, because "the wages council system is a serious source of inflexibility in the labour market, damaging job prospects".

The consultation document floated an alternative: reform. Employers said that "industrial relations have generally been good in wages council industries". In July 1985 Mr King opted for reform, removing 500,000 workers aged under 21 from wages council protection. The UK would also take a derogation

from the International Labour Organisation convention 26 which requires states to maintain wage fixing machinery.

In 1988, the government invited "views on the proposal that the wages council system should be abolished". In 1989, authoritative press reports said that Norman Fowler, then employment secretary, was determined to legislate. At the end of the year, equally authoritative reports said that he had decided not to.

In March 1990, Michael Howard, who succeeded Mr Fowler, told the Commons that he had "decided not to proceed with the abolition of the councils at present". In June 1991, he told MPs that the councils "do not have a permanent place" in wage setting. That phrase was incorporated in Howard's February 1992 white paper on employment law.

What explains this labyrinthine tale? Observers cite the division among employers as to the desirability of abolition, conflict of evidence as to whether the councils cost jobs and opposition from "wage" Tories. The Tories may now have lost their opportunity to abolish wages councils. If Labour wins, its proposed minimum wage, of 30p an hour higher than the most generous wage set by any wages council, would appear to make the councils redundant.

Environment

Lib Dems link poor health to pollution

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats are the only party to make the environment an important election issue. Paddy Ashdown said yesterday at the launch of the party's "green" policy document.

He said that at the heart of the party's programme was the creation of a healthier Britain through measures to clean up the atmosphere. "Air pollution is a major cause of respiratory illness such as asthma and bronchitis," he added. "A quarter of Britain's people are suffering from respiratory illnesses. Air pollution also contributes to heart disease and various types of cancer." Water pollution was a further cause of illness, with levels of lead, pesticides and sewage exceeding safety limits in water drunk by millions of people.

The Liberal Democrats would:

- Support a European Community energy tax.
- Invest in rail and public transport to encourage passengers away from cars.
- Control factory emissions by a licensing system.
- Grade vehicle excise duty according to a car's energy efficiency.
- Increase public information on air pollution.

Mr Ashdown said: "A health policy which seeks to cure the sick, but not to stop

them becoming ill in the first place is at best half a policy. Only the Liberal Democrats offer a twin-track policy for health: prevention and cure."

Simon Hughes, the party's environment spokesman, said a survey of the parties' policies by a former director of Friends of the Earth had



Hughes: accused two parties of not acting

praised the Liberal Democrats as by far the "greenest" of the main parties.

Although the Conservatives were good at talking green, he said, the latest figures revealed a much grayer picture. For Labour, the environment was simply a "bolt-on extra" as an attempt to attract the green vote, he added, and Neil Kinnock had not made one speech on the subject as leader of the Labour party.

MEDIAWATCH by Brian MacArthur

Leaders muzzle democracy

As some of Britain's most experienced political reporters tried to report the election this week they were increasingly frustrated by the way the main party leaders are stifling democratic debate by performing for television instead of answering difficult questions.

Television, declared Peter Jenkins in *The Independent*, was a medium that had the potential to extend the democratic process but stood in danger of subverting it. Joe Haines, the former Downing Street press secretary, said in the *Daily Mirror* that snappy one-liners instead of arguments were now offered by politicians; superficiality was all that could be crammed into 20 seconds of television.

But the hard news for British journalism this week is that a few political reporters have managed to upset all the stage-managed press conferences and succeeded in disconcerting both John Major and Neil Kinnock.

The first to do so was Anthony Bevins, political editor of *The Independent*, who says he has never known so many press conferences where journalists were "nailed down, stitched-up, crucified and silenced". In his view, it's "stick your hand up, state your name and number and

no supplementaries. It's a method of control I detest." Bevins is not regarded by the Tories as one of them and often gets ignored. He was noticed on Monday, however, and asked the prime minister if he would pledge that taxes would be cut.

This seemingly innocent question was deflected, but when John Cole, the BBC political editor, was called, he put the same question. That was when Mr Major began to stumble, especially when Robin Oakley, political editor of *The Times*, also nagged away at the issue.

On this occasion, Bevins managed to get in a supplementary, asked a question for which he had not been briefed, was clear.

On Wednesday it was Mr Kinnock's turn to be ambushed. His tormentor was Peter Hitchens, of the *Daily Express*, who gets the same treatment at a Kinnock press conference as Bevins gets from the Tories. He was repeatedly ignored at the official press conference, but afterwards spotted Mr Kinnock unprotected by aides, and managed to put a direct question, asking why he used the "Big Lie" in Labour's election broadcast. It was the

"Big Truth". Mr Kinnock riposted, as his minders moved in. Hitchens reported yesterday that his unorthodox technique of simply asking questions was so surprising that he was quickly interviewed for stories by fellow reporters.

All three leaders, afraid of making gaffes, have erected fortresses against questioning journalists. They are using dangerous tactics that suggest either that they are afraid of questions from a bemused electorate or intellectually unworthy of office. The supreme weeks of democracy are surely worthy of more than artificial soundbites and picture snacks.

As Hugo Young said in *The Guardian*, the people do speak in this election — but only as persons aggregated into faceless, nameless statistics in polls or extras at walkabouts. They are "a multitude in a wasteland" made to deceive the cameras, passive receivers no longer active participants in a dialogue nobody controls. "These are the politics of permanent condescension," he said.

That is a chilling thought that ought to worry the politicians who try so hard to

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Computer predicts Labour majority

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS APRIL 1992

The power-dressers who keep parties' shows on the road

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON AND ANDREW PIERCE

JULIE Hall's role in the dispute over who leaked what about the now infamous Labour health broadcast has thrown the spotlight on a new breed of power-dressed political women on the campaign trail.

Every party now seems to regard a posse of attractive and persuasive women as an essential campaign accessory. Ms Hall became the most visible of the breed yesterday when the news manager became the news.

These women are the party funders and press officers who have the unenviable task of stopping their charges making embarrassing public gaffes, keeping the press corps sweet and ensuring that the leaders arrive where they are meant to be at the right time. They have been working up to 18 hours a day since the campaign began.

unheralded and unnoticed — until Ms Hall's starring role.

Ms Hall, aged 33, succeeded Patricia Hewitt as Neil Kinnock's press secretary in 1989. With a degree in industrial relations from Warwick, she arrived in the Labour leader's office via political and trade union programmes at Channel 4, ITN and Granada. Her role includes organising the Labour leader's press briefings, clucking around him protectively like a mother hen.

It is Ms Hall who "interprets" the finer points of policy after a Kinnock interview or speech and provides background briefings in which she speaks with the authority of the leader himself. If Labour wins the election, her presence in Downing Street would establish a powerful link between the prime minister's office and Buckingham Palace. Her fiancé, Colin Byrne, a former Labour press officer, now works for the Prince of Wales. Their wedding is expected to take place this summer.

Her deputy is Hilary Coffman, aged 43, who was first brought in by Michael Foot and has been with Mr Kinnock since he became leader. Much liked by journalists, many felt she had been hard done by when she did not get the top job after doing it on a temporary basis for several months before Ms Hall was appointed.

Ms Coffman insists that she did not want the job. She prefers the day-to-day contact with journalists, whose company she genuinely seems to enjoy, rather than the more strategic role which Ms Hall's job entails. She has two teenage children by a former marriage but now enjoys a happy relationship with David Hill, head of campaigns and communications at Walworth Road.

At least one broadsheet journalist wrote a sketch during the last election claiming to have fallen in love with Ms Coffman. She enjoys the ability, surprisingly rare among political press officers, to persuade journalists that she is "on their side".

For the duration of the election campaign, these two women have been joined on the road by Lesley Smith, aged 31, a Walworth Road press officer. Part of her job is to keep the accompanying press party entertained and to ensure that in between the photo-opportunities, suitable eating and drinking opportunities are not overlooked.

Mr Kinnock's two other female minders are Jan Royal, a charming but intensely private woman with a young family who handles much of his constituency business, and Sue Nye, a bespectacled blonde whose party trick after receptions in the shadow cabinet room used to be to perform acrobatic somersaults, many Labour MPs say that Ms Nye is the most powerful cog in the Kinnock office.

She controls the diary and even senior Labour MPs must go to her if they wish to get a private audience with their leader. She is married to Gavin Davies, the Goldman Sachs economist. Mr Kinnock seldom goes anywhere on official business without one of these two women smoothing his path and arranging the introductions and handshakes.

For the Tories, Vanessa Ford has attracted the most attention. She has been given the task of accompanying Norma Major around the country throughout the campaign. Miss Ford, a graduate in social sciences from Nottingham University, is one of the few people in the Tory campaign team to have election experience, having managed the press office at Smith Square last time.

Wherever Chris Patten goes, Angie Bray, his personal press officer goes with him. They begin their day in London at the morning press conference before flying to Bath. She takes her fax, mobile telephone and portable television so that she can stay in close contact with Conservative Central Office, the Major team and journalists throughout the day. One of the last remaining Thatcherites, Miss Bray, aged 38, is an experienced hand among a young central office team and previously worked for LBC and Channel 4's *Diverse Productions*.

When Margaret Thatcher resigned, Miss Bray took a calculated gamble by quitting her job at central office to help with John Major's election campaign. The move paid off and she survived the transition easily when others did not.

Sidonie Myers, aged 24, is the all important Girl Friday at the Conservative party rallies. Known as Sid, she is personal assistant to Russ Pipe, the party's head of press relations who took over from Harvey Thomas when Mrs Thatcher resigned. She came to central office with Mr Pipe from ITN and ensures that everything is in its proper place before the rallies start. One of her most important tasks on the campaign trail is applying the make-up to both John and Norma Major before they take their seats on the party platforms.

Oily Grender, aged 29, the Liberal Democrats' chief press officer, is probably the most powerful woman in the party. Not only is she running the ten-strong press office team in the party's Cowley Street headquarters from 6.30am to 11pm, she is the only woman on the election strategy team chaired by Paddy Ashdown. Ms Grender is universally popular with reporters, for she neither bullies nor cajoles, but relies on gentle but persistent powers of persuasion to get her way. It was Ms Grender who was given much of the credit for the way in which Mr Ashdown was able to emerge relatively unscathed from the revelations of his extra-marital affair.

Her deputy is Sarah Harris, aged 25, the party's broadcasting officer. She has the task of placing the party's 22 MPs, who come from all four corners of the country, into television studios for current affairs programmes. She is also responsible for ensuring that the third party gets equal billing with Labour and the Tories.

Carolyn Culey, aged 30, is also on the campaign trail for the Liberal Democrats. Her training in the whip's office makes her ideally suited to keep the reporters on Mr Ashdown's tour in their place.



Supporting roles: Sidonie Myers, the make-up artist, with Norma Major, top; Lesley Smith, left, who has joined the campaign trail for Labour; and Vanessa Ford, who accompanies the prime minister's wife

Scotland

Brittan rules out automatic entry to EC

BY KERRY GILL

SIR Leon Brittan, who is seen by many observers as the most powerful man on the European Commission after its president, Jacques Delors, said yesterday that the Scottish National party was playing with fire by claiming that an independent Scotland would be automatically accepted by the European Community.

"There is no precedent or reliable legal basis for arguing that an independent Scotland would automatically become a member of the European Community," he said, in Edinburgh.

"Indeed, there is every reason for believing that an independent Scotland would face a long, difficult, costly and unpredictable negotiation with the Community and its member states." Sir Leon, a former Tory cabinet minister, said. The SNP's arguments were dangerous and irresponsible and the reliance on the slogan "Scotland in Europe" could be a delusion.

Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary and former Scottish secretary, accused the nationalists of using Europe as a "fig-leaf" to protect themselves from the charge of being separatists who would leave Scotland isolated from the outside world and damage its interests. The basis of the SNP's case for independence in Europe could be demolished by a schoolboy aged 14.

The nationalists were motivated more by dislike of England than by love of Scotland and were no more believers in the European ideal than they were in the days when the party campaigned against the Community. "If Scotland, as one of only four countries in the United Kingdom, is slighted and neglected, why would it fare better in a Community where it would be one out of 13 or 17 or 20? If Scotland, with five million people out of 55 million, is impotent, why would Scotland with five million out of more than 300 million fare better?" he said.

Jim Sillars, the SNP's deputy leader, said that the vehemence of the Tories' attack proved they were badly scared by the nationalists' continuing advance. Meanwhile, the SNP pledged a ten per cent rise in benefits. It said armed forces and Civil Service pensions would be paid by an independent Scottish government. Mr Sillars said his party's first task would be to wipe out the poverty suffered under 13 years of policies decided in England, but opposed in Scotland.

"For pensioners, the increases in 1992-3 will be £6.35 for a single person, on top of the proposed rates, and £10.10 for a couple, bringing their pensions to £60.50 and £96.80." Similar increases would be paid in each of the following three years. "The first Scottish government will have a duty to put right the wrongs done to poorer people." The party's attack on poverty was fully-costed.

Computer predicts a Labour majority

BY LYN JENKINS

FOLLOWERS of the Bristol University computer prediction of the election result are in for a disappointment. Whereas in the past they have reaped vast sums gambling on its unlikely but accurate forecasts, this time it is tipping the favourites.

Gordon Reece, the brain behind the model that has correctly forecast the result of the past three elections on the opening day of the campaign, said: "I'm advising everyone not to waste their money."

The prediction made by Mr Reece and colleagues in the engineering mathematics department gives the result as a Labour lead by 20 seats, with 312 seats as against 292 for the Conservatives, 20 to the Liberal Democrats and ten to nationalists, prompting another election in the autumn where Labour will secure a majority.

"Once the unthinkable happens and Neil Kinnock has become the prime minister and the electorate realises that it makes very little difference and he is not as awful as people have been saying, the electorate will drift towards him," Mr Reece said.

The computer shows Labour doing better in the South than in the North and Scotland. Indeed, in Scotland the Conservatives are likely to do better than expected, benefiting from the split vote between Labour and the nationalists. The calculations are made at the start of the campaign, since, according to Mr Reece, the following three weeks have no bearing on the result.

A big blow to Conservative morale is predicted with the loss of the party chairman Chris Patten's seat in Bath. "It will be the biggest upset since George Brown lost Belper in 1970 and similar since it will be psychologically disastrous for the party to lose its chairman," Mr Reece said. "It destroys any credibility they would have in saying they could govern."

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, APRIL 1992

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Thatcher puts the church right

The Gospel according to Margaret Thatcher was delivered to an adoring congregation in a Methodist chapel in the City of London yesterday. But because the press, who had been invited by the Methodist Church, were barred at the last moment from entry, we can only report the strictly unauthorised version.

The order of service listed Mrs Thatcher as in "conversation" with the Rev Paul Hume. Some members of the congregation muttered darkly as they left that what emerged was a monologue, but this was unfair. Her delivery, rounded off at either end by a rousing hymn, was more akin to a sermon, with occasional interjections from the tacit minister when Mrs Thatcher paused for breath.

Mrs Thatcher appeared to enjoy immensely the return to her religious roots. As worshippers were told by Mr Hume, superintendent of Wesley's Chapel in the City Road, she was married at the chapel, her children were christened there and her father was a Methodist lay preacher.

The event, Mr Hume insisted, was strictly non-political. He silenced the only heckler by asking the organist to strike up and Mrs Thatcher, dressed in deep, regal blue, smiled calmly as the offender was escorted quietly from the church.

Security at the chapel was strict. Anyone with a camera was picked out

Ruth Gledhill gives the unauthorised version of yesterday's monologue to the Methodists

by specially installed electronic detection equipment, although several notebook-carrying journalists gained entry disguised as worshippers.

The poise and passion of Mrs Thatcher as she spoke impressed Methodists of all political persuasion. The fundamental importance in her life of religious values and beliefs was in striking contrast to the tone of the present election campaign. In the manifestos of the three main parties, religion is mentioned only in passing.

Mrs Thatcher said her strict Methodist upbringing was very influential indeed. She was brought up "to honour all of the fundamental beliefs of the Christian church". She referred often to the Old and New Testaments. "I think the most important thing of all is that I have had the chance to be taught the fundamental values, the fundamental responsibilities, and really to understand where they come from." Such values underpinned the principles of democracy, she said.

She described a typical Sunday at her childhood home in Grantham, Lincolnshire, which included Sunday school and church in the morning and homework in the evening, and the aroma of her mother's baking. At the age of 12, she was playing the piano for Sunday school hymns. She said: "We were low church." The average service was as follows: "Hymn, prayer, hymn, lesson, hymn, notices, hymn, sermon, hymn."

When Mr Hume suggested that the sermon was the climax, she gave him her sweetest smile and contradicted him. She used to time the minister, and heaven preserve him if he went over 15 minutes. But she did concede: "I must say as we got older, the sermon became the climax." While she valued her religious upbringing, she thought at times it was a little too much. "I think I was the only person at school who went to church quite so often. I think it would have been a little bit better to have a little bit less."

Yesterday's lunchtime event, one of a series with people in business, public and church life, may not have been political, but her responses were politic. Asked if she now considered herself Methodist or Church of England, she said: "I was brought up to believe that John Wesley [the founder of Methodism] lived and died as a Church of England believer."

She considered one of her great achievements as prime minister was her partnership with Ronald Reagan in helping to combat communism.

Northern Ireland

Paisley prepared for post-election deal

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IAN Paisley, the Democratic Unionist party leader, made clear yesterday his terms for supporting a minority government. He wants a future government to admit that security policies have failed and to implement a new anti-terrorist strategy. He also wants an official declaration that the Anglo-Irish agreement will be replaced.

Unlike James Molyneux, the Ulster Unionist party leader, who has ruled out a deal, Mr Paisley seems happy to consider one although he

said that he and Mr Molyneux would work together in any negotiations. "I'm standing at this election to go to Westminster and so are my colleagues," Mr Paisley said at the launch of his party's manifesto in Belfast. "When we're there, we're entitled to make any deals we want."

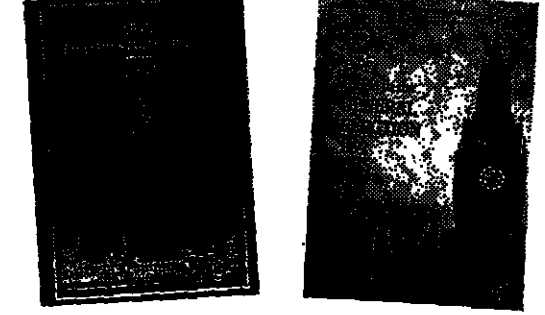
The manifesto, *Time To Tackle Terrorism*, features a picture of a minibus in which eight Protestant workers were killed by an IRA landmine attack in January. The manifesto calls for new security

measures, most of which have been rejected by the prime minister. They include the effective sealing of the border, the creation of a "ring of steel" around republican areas and the implementation of curfews.

Mr Paisley said that further inter-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland would be doomed if the Irish government and John Hume, the SDLP leader, continued to insist that the union should be an issue for negotiation. The DUP had three seats in

the last parliament. North Antrim (Ian Paisley), Mid-Ulster (Rev William McCrea) and East Belfast (Peter Robinson). All look safe although the party's share of the vote fell from 20 per cent in 1983 to 11.7 per cent in 1987.

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Bonn cuts off arms flow to Turkey over Kurd conflict

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY yesterday stopped all arms deliveries to Turkey until it investigates reports that German weapons are being used against the Kurds. The embargo was introduced after television news showed German-built armoured cars in action against Kurdish civilians.

Armoured cars of this kind were delivered to Turkey as part of a DM 1.5 billion (£500 million) package agreed during the Gulf war. They, with 250,000 Kalashnikovs and ammunition from the former East German army, were to protect Turkey from any attack by Iraq. The agreement specified that they were not to be used internally.

On Wednesday, the foreign ministry called in Numan Hazer, the senior Turkish diplomat in Bonn, to find out if the agreement had been broken. In Weimar, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, said: "We are particularly shaken by pictures of the weapons being used against the civilian population."

Herr Genscher has been asked by Portugal, the current president of the European Community's council of ministers, to protest to Ankara about the military attacks on civilians. He also intends to raise the matter at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Yesterday the Turkish embassy here denied that German weapons had been used in attacks on the Kurds.

The arms embargo is the second imposed by Germany on Turkey because of attacks on Kurds. Last year the Bundestag suspended DM 25 million in military aid after Turkish aircraft were reported to have bombed Kurdish positions in northern Iraq. Germany has been one of Turkey's main arms suppliers since the mid-1960s, delivering DM 5.5 billion worth of weaponry. The present embargo will halt deliveries of 45 F4 Phantom jets being refitted for unarmed surveillance, Leopard 1 battle tanks, and other heavy equipment.

Turkey signed an agreement with the United States yesterday for the local production of 40 more F16 Fighting Falcon jets for the Turkish air force. The F16s will be jointly manufactured in Ankara by Turkish Aerospace Industries and US General Dynamics.

Turkey has accused Germany of helping to fund the separatist Kurdish Workers' party, which is the centre of Kurdish resistance to Turkish rule. Bonn has denied this, although it is likely that much of the party's funds come from the 400,000 Kurds living in Germany.

Police believe that Kurds have been involved in raids on Turkish banks and offices in Hamburg, Dortmund, Munich, Hanover and Stuttgart in the past few days. There was a heavy police presence in Bonn yesterday when about 100 Kurds protested outside party offices. Rudolf Seiters, the German interior minister, said: "The government will not allow conflicts from the home countries of foreign citizens to be fought out in Germany."

The German decision to impose the embargo was taken somewhat reluctantly, because Bonn has been trying to improve relations with Ankara in order to influence the Turkish government to treat the Kurds better. In each of the last two years about 25,000 Kurds have sought refuge in Germany.

● Ankara: Turkish warplanes have hit camps of rebel Turkish Kurds in northern Iraq for the fourth time this month after violent unrest in southeast Turkey. Foreign rebel workers and Iraqi Kurdish rebel leaders said three villages had been hit. (Reuters)



Seiters: Bonn rejects imported warfare

Italy's state-run television has banned a mineral water commercial featuring American actor John Travolta because of possible political overtones. In the commercial, Travolta states that Italy has as many political parties as it has mineral water companies, and goes on to suggest that Italy should "choose well". It was scheduled for broadcast on April 2, still three days before the general elections. Advertisements on Italian public television cannot have any political content, said Massimo Modesti, a spokesman for the agency that regulates such ads.

Plácido Domingo yesterday gave his blessing to plans to build a £20 million opera house at Compton Verney in the heart of Warwickshire, expected to open within five years. In a message to the project council, the international tenor said: "The growth of opera in Britain since the war has been remarkable. Its artistic achievements are held in high esteem throughout the world. I wish you every success."

Actor Bill Roache — Coronation Street's Ken Barlow — has been admitted to Macclesfield General Hospital, Cheshire, for tests on a stomach complaint. His admission was pre-arranged and the 61-year-old actor has been written out of the series for a number of episodes.

Vincent D'Onofrio took on the role of royal child minder yesterday as he headed out with her two sons for the Austrian Alps. Three young friends, two boys and one girl, joined the party at Heston for a ski holiday of the season. Vincent D'Onofrio and two friends were in the "cup as the princess, in a green checked jacket, a green and black sweater and black trousers, made sure they were all on board."

Tyson delivers own knockout blow

Martin Fletcher watches the champion go down with a kiss and a tortured smile



Fallen idol: Mike Tyson arriving at the Indianapolis court yesterday with his lawyer, Vincent Fuller, to receive a six-year jail sentence for rape, despite his own and his counsel's pleas for leniency

MIKE Tyson handed his gold watch to his lawyer, kissed an elderly woman friend, and with a tortured half-smile on his face was led through a side door by a bevy of Indianapolis policemen to begin a six-year prison sentence for rape.

That marked the end of a sensational all-American superlative, the end of a debauched and riotous life-style, and almost certainly the end of a career that had made Iron Mike the youngest and richest heavyweight world champion in boxing history.

His lawyers, the best money could buy, had spent the morning pleading for rehabilitation, not imprisonment, but any chance they had of persuading Judge Patricia Gifford was blown by a bizarre, rambling 12-minute monologue by Tyson himself during which he displayed negligible remorse.

Veering between self-pity and defiance, this huge man with shaven head stood at the witness stand and claimed he had been vilified, humiliated and crucified, a victim of his own celebrity. He apologised for any hurt caused, admitted he had been "kind of crazy", but denied rape. There were "no black eyes, no broken ribs", he said. He was "trying to have some fun" and had got "carried away" by all the ladies at the pageant but had been portrayed as "a manic guy who had absolutely gone crazy".

Wildly gesticulating, the boxer said the things he was supposed to have done were just incredible. He was not emotionally disturbed like Charles Manson. He had not come to beg for mercy. "I am here expecting the worst," he said. "I don't know if I can deal with it... I would be afraid but I am not guilty of this crime." He made much of his ignorance

of the law and lashed out at the prosecutors, claiming that they had said "very distasteful things" about him on television and mocking one as a "flash-in-the-pan media star".

His performance was starkly at odds with his lawyers' previous attempts to portray him as essentially a good man who had been unable to cope with his early celebrity.

Vincent Fuller, who had spent the 14-day trial in February arguing that his client was so famously debauched that Miss Washington must have known

what to expect, claimed yesterday that Tyson was terrified in the ring but "a sensitive, thoughtful, caring man" outside. He quoted the supervisor of Tyson's reform school calling him "a tulip among weeds".

Tyson jailed, page 1

Democrats break taboo on rumoured Bush adultery

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush ought to be held to the same standards of marital fidelity that Bill Clinton has been. Ron Brown, the Democratic party chairman, said yesterday.

In remarks designed to shore up Mr Clinton's campaign and divert attention back to Republican problems, Mr Brown broke a Washington taboo about Mr Bush's alleged, once rumoured affair with an aide. He told the Los Angeles Times that, if speculation about Mr Clinton's infidelities continued, "I hope George Bush is going to be asked some hard and tough questions".

Rumours about Mr Bush's supposed adultery, first raised before the 1988 campaign, were stopped after his son, George Bush Jr, said the answer to the "A" question was "No". The president himself has never been publicly questioned on the issue.

Clinton aides have privately challenged journalists to devote as much effort to uncovering Mr Bush's alleged affair as they have to Gennifer Flowers and other women associated with Mr Clinton. But Mr Brown's public call was a change of tactic. It came on a day when the Democratic leadership revealed growing nervousness about the damage Mr Clinton could suffer in the coming battle for New York against Jerry Brown, the former California governor.

Mr Clinton's defeat by Mr Brown in Connecticut this week has raised new questions about his "character problems", letting the New York tabloid press loose on a Democratic primary race that would otherwise have been over before it began. Bush-Quayle aides say the revival of the "A" issue proves how desperate the Democrats have become.

The Democratic party also chose yesterday to release one of its pieces of guaranteed good news for Governor Clinton in his campaign: the endorsement of his retired opponent, Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa. Senator Harkin said that he would aggressively lobby his labour supporters, who currently favour Jerry Brown, to back the Arkansas governor.

Diary, page 14

President endures five-hour check-up

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

NEXT time you go for a medical check-up and complain about the few basic tests a normal physical requires, spare a thought for America's First Patient, the president.

For more than five hours yesterday, President Bush had everything tested as he went through his annual check-up and encountered specialists that most people have never heard of. If they had, had nightmares about.

"I'm looking forward to it," Mr Bush assured the ever-attentive White House press corps just before boarding the helicopter which was to whisk him to the nearby Bethesda

Naval Hospital. Only a slight presidential grimace gave a hint of his true feelings. Asked if he was in good health, Mr Bush gave the thumbs up.

The 67-year-old president's check-up involved particularly close attention to the glaucoma in his left eye. Mr Bush is having no medication for the disease, but he does take an anti-histamine regularly to control some allergies and is on a drug for his thyroid problem, known as Graves' Disease.

Thomas Stuttaford, Life & Times, page 5

Polite hello stuns Arab at end of line

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI yesterday discovered that the world may be a smaller place thanks to modern communications, but that technology by itself can do little to bridge the gulf of hatred and suspicion between the Arab world and the Jewish state.

The Israeli state telephone company, Bezeq, has opened a direct dialing service to 11 Arab countries, most of which are still in a state of war with Israel, in the hope that individuals in the Middle East might succeed in establishing the sort of contacts which the negotiators at the peace talks have so far failed to do.

However, as Danny Gur-Arie, a reporter for Israel Radio assigned to carry out a one-man diplomatic initiative, discovered yesterday, actually making contact with the enemy does not necessarily lead to an improved relationship. After achieving limited success with the reception manager at the Sheraton Hotel in Qatar, who was prepared to discuss the quality of the line, the weather and hotel occupancy at this time of year, the Israeli journalist faced the greatest challenge — making contact with Saudi Arabia, the heartland of Arab Islam and traditionally one of Israel's fiercest enemies.

Unfortunately, he appeared to get through to the Arab equivalent of Basil Fawlty, the desk manager at the Sheraton Hotel in Jeddah, who was clearly in no mind to put aside his country's conflict with the Jewish state.

The tortured dialogue began with the Israeli reporter introducing himself and announcing with innocent pride that he was calling from Jerusalem. "I beg your pardon," replied the incredulous Saudi, in his best John Cleese imitation.

After the identity of the caller was established, the Israeli journalist continued: "Well, we now have direct lines to call you. I just picked up the phone and dialled right to Jeddah... I'm just calling to say hello, to see how things are over there. How's the weather?"

The enquiry may have seemed innocuous to the Israeli, but to Saudi ears the request had more sinister undertones, perhaps intended to help Israeli air force pilots preparing a bombing raid. "I'm sorry, I can't help you at all," replied the Saudi.

"How's the weather in Jeddah?" persisted the Israeli. "Well, I really don't know," said the Saudi, pausing before adding, "it's a funny answer, isn't it?"

"Well, it is funny," said the Israeli, relieved that finally they agreed on something. "Are you uncomfortable speaking to an Israeli?"

The Saudi hotel manager at first denied that there was anything the matter, but then admitted: "I don't know why, but this is true."

London: The astronauts on the Atlantis space shuttle fired an electron-beam gun towards the Earth in an attempt to create artificial auroras in the sky which would have been visible from extreme southern latitudes, such as Antarctica.

Libya turns tables on West over Lockerbie suspects

LIBYA has contrived to reverse the international legal situation over the extradition of the Lockerbie bombing suspects. Libya is now the accuser and Washington and London have landed in the dock.

Legally, the Libyan government is fully entitled to refuse the extradition of its own nationals, even if they are accused of international terrorism. Tripoli has asked the International Court of Justice at The Hague to confirm its right to refuse extradition.

As it takes about two years before the court will come to a decision, Tripoli has also requested interim protection to restrain Britain and America from coercing it into surrendering the pair while the court decides on the merits of the case. This preliminary judgment can be expected in a few weeks.

Washington, London and

France have been attempting to avoid this kind of legal tangle by using their position as permanent members of the Security Council who hold economic sway over Russia and China, the only other veto-wielding permanent members. In January, they achieved a non-binding resolution which insisted that the government in Tripoli must provide a "full and effective response" to the American and British demands for the surrender of the suspects.

However, in the view of the Arab world, Tripoli is responding "fully and effectively" by applying the terms of the Montreal Convention concerning unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation. Under the convention, Libya has the option of either trying or extraditing terrorist suspects. It instituted proceedings against the two individuals, but Washington and London frustrated a possible trial by refusing to furnish the evidence they claim to have.

A reluctance to take at face value Libyan promises of prosecuting the two with the necessary vigour is understandable. But a failure by Libya to exercise due diligence in fulfilling its obligations under the Montreal Convention would have given America and Britain a right to apply to the world court. A court decision against Libya could have been enforced by the security council.

Both governments are likely to argue that the Montreal Convention does not

Marc Weller argues that Tripoli has put Washington and London in the dock over the Lockerbie case by referring it to the international court

cover state-sponsored terrorism. This is not borne out by its terms and, at any rate, the world court has jurisdiction to rule on the issue. But even before the court has rendered its interim judgment, America and Britain are today pressing in the security council for the immediate adoption of economic sanctions against Libya.

However, diplomatic, economic and possibly even military pressure designed to force the surrender of the suspects would obviously prejudice a ruling of the court on whether or not the Montreal Convention applies and whether Libya is obliged to extradite.

Questions of extradition are among the most delicate, complex and knotty international legal issues — a circumstance frequently experienced by the British government when seeking the transfer of IRA terrorist suspects from the United States and France.

And the security council is not an international tribunal with jurisdiction to decide pre-eminently legal problems. Instead, the United Nations Charter confirms the position of the world court as the "principal judicial organ" of the world organisation.

Although the council could adopt further recommendatory measures, such as the holding of the suspects by the Arab League pending a ruling of the world court, binding sanctions would conflict with the UN Charter. A mandatory embargo, if it is not adopted to imple-

ment a world court decision, would require a finding of the council that Libya's position amounts to a threat to international security.

Arguably, there might be such a threat if there was credible evidence of an imminent terrorist attack emanating from Libya. But it is difficult to see how Tripoli's insistence on the application of the Montreal Convention could amount to a threat to peace, especially after Libya has demonstrated its commitment to a peaceful settlement of the dispute by applying to the world court.

According to Washington and London, the need to combat terrorism and the desire to build a "new world order" make it necessary to stretch UN law on this point. After all, recent and commendable UN interventions to assist the Kurdish, Somali and the Yugoslav populations have also extended UN

practice into parts it could not reach before — the internal affairs of states. But it is precisely the danger of upsetting this fragile and positive consensus in the security council which makes it essential to respect the law. For legal rules safeguard the rights and interests of smaller states.

After the melting of the Cold War, these states are suddenly faced with an apparently omnipotent world organisation. If they are to continue to co-operate with the security council, they must be assured that UN decisions are based on objective law, rather than on the interests of powerful nations. The author is a Research Fellow of St Catherine's College and the Cambridge University Research Centre for International Law.

Libya "wriggling", page 18
Leading article, page 15

Zaire's UN envoys get an eviction notice

New York: Most non-diplomatic disputes at the United Nations involve the unpaid parking tickets of foreign envoys, but the State Department has now decided to confront a member nation about its failure to pay rent (James Bone writes).

The department has told Zaire that unless it pays the back rent owed by its mission to the UN in New York its diplomats will be evicted not only from the premises, but from America.

This unprecedented move comes after a Manhattan judge ruled that Zaire must pay more than \$400,000 (£235,000) in back rent for offices in a skyscraper near the UN building or move out by April 20.

Judge Leonard Sand rejected Zaire's contention that its ten-year occupancy of the offices was protected by treaties and US domestic legislation. If the public interest was so compelling, he said, the rent should be paid by the US government or the UN rather than "thrusting the entire burden on the shoulders of a single private landlord".

Deal offered

Amman: Iraq proposed the sale or "neutralisation" of the suspected nuclear site of Al-Ashcher. The proposal was put forward one day after the International Atomic Energy Agency had announced plans for the destruction of the site. (AFP)

Support wanes

Bangkok: Support appeared to wane among Thailand's pro-military political parties for Narong Wongwan, aged 67, a businessman and leading candidate for prime minister, in the wake of allegations that he is linked to drug trafficking. (AP)

Truce wrecked

Phnom Penh: Thousands have fled from fighting between the Khmer Rouge and government forces in central Cambodia, food distribution has stopped and UN peacekeepers have asked to be armed. A truce signed at the weekend is in tatters. (Reuters)

Gotti overruled

New York: The judge in the trial of John Gotti, the alleged "boss of bosses" who is accused of leading America's biggest Mafia family, has cut short his defence by barring five of the six witnesses that his lawyers wanted to put on the stand.

Syrians leave

Beirut: Syria, which controls more than 80 per cent of Lebanon's territory, has started to reduce its presence in Beirut in a measure described as a prelude for a comprehensive withdrawal in line with the agreement that ended the civil war in 1989.

Israel accused

Jerusalem: Undercover Israeli units operating in the occupied territories have initiated what amounts to a shoot-to-kill policy against Palestinian suspects, Faisal Hussein, the most powerful Palestinian in the occupied territories, alleged.

Space gaming

London: The astronauts on the Atlantis space shuttle fired an electron-beam gun towards the Earth in an attempt to create artificial auroras in the sky which would have been visible from extreme southern latitudes, such as Antarctica.

Tamerl



Ukraine's isolation
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Tamerlane resurrected as latter-day saint by Uzbeks



Tamerlane: now seen as a great man

THOSE who take the Golden Road to Samarkand these days "for just of knowing what should not be known" travel a pot-holed, highway lined with silver statues of Lenin and fading slogans promising "The final victory of Communism" or declaring that "Lenin is more alive to-day than anyone living".

But the death of communism has reached Uzbekistan as it has other parts of the former Soviet Union. The wheel of history is turning again in this fabled city, built by the 14th century tyrant, Tamerlane, with the spoils of a lifetime of bloody conquest.

The images of Lenin are coming down, and the city fathers are busy erecting instead statues to the man the playwright Christopher Marlowe described as "Scourge of God and terror of the world". A splendid 20ft statue in bronze complete with sword, shield and helmet is being cast this week. Three other

Communism has gone, and in Lenin's place the people of Central Asia are erecting statues of a 14th century tyrant, Jasper Becker writes from Samarkand

images of Tamerlane are due to follow, although the city authorities are still debating where exactly to put the first one. Several sites recently vacated by the disgraced Lenin are under consideration.

Already a street named after Frunze, the bolshevik general who brought his own brand of terror to Central Asia — though rather later than Tamerlane — has been renamed Tamerlane Prospekt. Another avenue is no longer called Communist Street but instead honours Tamerlane's wife, Bibi Khanum.

The huge mosque she built in Tamerlane's honour now stands in ruins, allegedly damaged by mortar fire on

the orders of a Russian general in 1878. Restoration work is at a standstill. Little else remains to commemorate Tamerlane's reign other than the Registan, a square formed by three huge and exuberantly decorated madrasahs or religious colleges, which Lord Curzon once described as the noblest in the world.

Tamerlane's tomb, just beyond the main tourist hotel, has now become more than just a tourist sight. These days elderly Uzbeks can be seen crouched in prayer beside the plain black sarcophagus.

"They worship him as a great man and as a saint," said an official guide. The



tomb is impressive, topped by a blue-ribbed dome in the shape of Tamerlane's hat. The locals have restored the interior using 4lb of gold, which sparkles dimly in the great cupola faced with onyx.

Until two or three years ago, the history of Tamerlane was taboo. His name was not even mentioned in school history books. The town's history museum still contains little to commemorate its most famous citizen apart from a wooden coffin of dubious origin and a poor portrait. After establishing a vast empire,

Tamerlane died of "inflammation of the brain" in 1405 on the borders of China, where he launched his last campaign at the age of 68. His troops carried his body home in a wedding palanquin to prevent news of his death leaking out.

Tamerlane's name means "man of iron" in Uzbek. But the Western version of his name probably comes from the Persian Timur-i-lang, which means Timur the lame. His coffin, which lies in an underground crypt was at one stage opened by a Russian archaeologist and the body exhumed.

The investigation revealed that the occupant was indeed lame, about 5ft 5ins, strongly built, with red hair and with a small scar on his forehead. The story goes that when the body was exhumed, three old men appeared at a tea-house where the gravediggers were resting and warned them not to proceed. Sure enough,

when his coffin was opened, they found written inside, the threat that "whoever opens my tomb shall unleash an invader more terrible than I". A day later on June 22 1941, the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union.

Tamerlane was reburied a year later with documents testifying to his identity written in Russian, Persian and Uzbek. Few people in Samarkand object to the re-discovery of Tamerlane as a local hero and the simultaneous demise of Lenin, always an imported hero at best in Central Asia.

A sensitive issue in Samarkand is whether Tamerlane was an Uzbek, or rather a Persian-speaking Tajik. Most of the city's newer residents are Tajiks, who claim Tamerlane the tyrant as their own, and deeply resent the way in which Uzbek has replaced Russian as the official language of Uzbekistan.



Lenin: an imported hero in Central Asia

Leading article, page 15

Ukraine's isolation alarms West

Tensions open Kiev split with Moscow

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW AND ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

RELATIONS between Russia and Ukraine, the axis of the fragile Commonwealth of Independent States, are deteriorating at a pace which is causing confusion and alarm among the Western powers.

In telephone conversations over recent days, the efforts of President Kravchuk of Ukraine to explain his side of the story to Western countries have been countered by stiff messages from President Bush and President Mitterrand. In particular, diplomats here say, there is considerable concern over President Kravchuk's suspension of the transfer of nuclear arms for destruction in Russia, on the ground that the situation in the neighbouring republic is too chaotic to be sure of the weapons' fate.

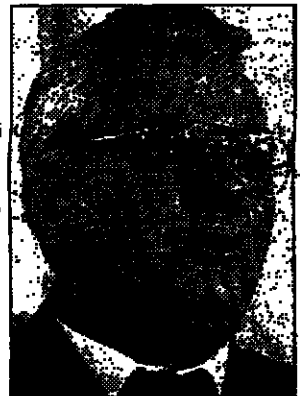
President Bush is reported to have said that, at a time when the future of the commonwealth was looking so delicate, it was especially important for countries to stand by their promises, including Ukraine's pledge to get rid of battlefield nuclear weapons by July. President Mitterrand said that he was concerned at the sharpness of disagreement between the commonwealth members over military matters.

Washington intends to offer "quiet encouragement" to both sides to come to a working agreement on the transfer of nuclear weapons, one Western diplomat said. Ukraine has suggested that new mechanisms be found for the weapons' destruction under international supervision, and it has mooted the idea of setting up its own reprocessing plant, which would have the incidental benefit of generating hard currency and keeping atomic scientists employed.

Western governments have reacted coolly to this idea, mainly because of the pre-

cedent it would set for Belorussia and Kazakhstan, the other two former Soviet republics that are supposed to be sending home their nuclear weapons. Russia and Ukraine are also at odds over economic issues, with the Ukrainian parliament resolved to cut loose from the rouble zone this week, strengthen border controls and procure oil from the Middle East in return for manufactured goods, likely to include weapons.

The collapse of the value of the monetary "coupons" introduced by Kiev this year, and the chaos caused by disruptions in the supply of energy and raw materials have driven home the extent to



Kravchuk received a message from Bush

which Ukraine, like the smaller commonwealth states, has always been dependent on Russia for every commodity, including money. But far from forcing the republics back into closer co-operation, these economic pressures seem to be prising them further apart and redoubling the determination of Kiev, at least, to free itself from humiliating dependency.

Almost the only substantial move towards rapprochement between Moscow and

Kiev in recent weeks came after intense Western pressure: Ukraine's agreement to participate in arrangements for the repayment of the Soviet Union's debt. But Western diplomats say they are conscious of the limits to their influence. They note that they may be presented with a fait accompli of Ukrainian withdrawal from the commonwealth, possibly before the group's next summit in May, and they are already beginning to study the implications of that for the republic's pledges to get rid of battlefield nuclear arms this year and strategic arms by 1994. For this reason, they are not flatly ruling out the possibility that they will have to reconcile themselves to the idea of reprocessing taking place on Ukrainian soil. "We are interested in the most secure solution, politically, financially and militarily," said one Western diplomat.

● Kiev: President Kravchuk has ordered the return of all Ukrainian conscripts from Azerbaijan, Armenia and Moldova by May 20, according to a decree published in the defence ministry newspaper, *Narodnaya Armiya*, yesterday.

The decree instructed the government to open talks with governments involved and the military command of the commonwealth to ensure the soldiers' return. Career officers and non-commissioned officers who wish to serve in Ukraine will also return under a deal to be worked out between the commonwealth and the Ukrainian defence ministry, the newspaper added.

Mr Kravchuk has been under pressure from public opinion to ensure that conscripts serving in other republics, particularly in areas of unrest, are allowed to return home. (Reuters)



Room for religion: girls in Sarajevo attending their first teaching about Islam in Bosnia-Herzegovina's schools since the decline of communism

Bosnia orders army to leave town

FROM DUSAN STOJANOVIC IN BELGRADE

LEADERS of Bosnia-Herzegovina issued an ultimatum yesterday, demanding the immediate withdrawal of federal troops from a strategic town as bomb blasts and shooting erupted in the republic.

The Bosnian presidency said that if the Serb-led Yugoslav army and other paramilitary forces failed to withdraw from Bosanski Brod by yesterday, it would inform the United Nations Security Council that an "internal aggression" had been committed against the republic. At least six people died on Wednesday in shelling as Serbs and Croats fought over the strategic town on Bosnia's border with Croatia.

Bosnian leaders claimed that the federal troops sided with Serbs in the clash. The army denied the charges. The clashes followed an upsurge of fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia that has left at least 30 dead this week. It was the worst outbreak of violence since a UN-brokered truce came into force on January 3 to end Serb-Croat clashes in Croatia.

Some of the fighting in Croatia appeared to be attempts by rival sides to gain territory before UN peacekeepers arrive. The Bosnian fighting was apparently between local militias trying to demarcate their regions before negotiations on the future of the ethnically mixed region.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug news agency said that Croats erected barricades overnight on roads linking Bosanski Brod with Serbia to the east. One person was shot dead from a barricade, it added. The agency said ethnic tensions were spreading from Bosanski Brod towards Derventa, 12 miles south, where heavy shooting but no casualties were reported overnight. (AP)

Nato rules out nuclear arms in war games

London: Nuclear weapons are to take a back-seat role in future Nato war games under proposals now being discussed at the alliance's Brussels headquarters (Michael Evans writes).

Under post-Cold War nuclear disarmament policy, only dual-capable aircraft will remain in Nato's tactical arsenal in Europe. Land-based tactical missiles and nuclear-tipped artillery shells are being eliminated.

Nato sources said, however, that nuclear weapons were so sensitive a subject that they could no longer be in the forefront of exercise planning. One source said: "We're not abandoning the idea of exercising nuclear procedures, but the emphasis will be on crisis management."

The sources said scenarios for future exercises had not yet been agreed, but it was already clear the alliance would not run war games automatically involving the hypothetical use of nuclear weapons. One source said: "In the present climate it is militarily unnecessary and politically unacceptable."

Troops banned

Madrid: British troops in Gibraltar have been banned from exercises in Spain, a fellow Nato country, even though the recent incident that triggered the new restriction was described as of "little importance" by the Spanish foreign minister.

Sub escapes

Moscow: A submarine intruded into Russian territorial waters off Murmansk, where Russian and American nuclear submarines collided last month. It used underwater jamming to elude the former Soviet navy and fled, the military said. (Reuters)

Airline fined

Lagos: The British government has fined Nigeria Airways £1.2 million for flying illegal immigrants carrying forged documents into Britain over the past three years, forcing the airline to increase its international fares, an airline official said. (AFP)

Pravda returns

Moscow: Pravda, formerly the official daily of the Soviet Communist party, is to return after ceasing publication two weeks ago. *Sovetskaya Rossiya* said. The editor of Pravda said it had been promised credits by a bank. (AFP)

Chemical to go

Rome: Atrazine, a weed killer massively used in rice fields and with other crops, has been banned throughout Italy. Produced by Italian and European chemical companies, it had been blamed for the growing pollution of water wells. (AP)

Fears dismissed

Brussels: Denying that regulations under the EC's single market meant that specialist foods, notably smelly French cheeses, would be banned, Martin Bangeman, the European Industry Commissioner, said: "That's nonsense. The contrary is true." (AFP)

Food tainted

Moscow: Residents of the northern Russian town of Archangel rushed to buy three tonnes of sausages. But after the entire consignment had been sold, health inspectors announced it was unfit to eat. Rat fur had been discovered in the sausages. (Reuters)

TIRANA NOTEBOOK by Anne McElvay

Disco-dancing in the dark to a democratic beat

One minute the solitary working lift in the Hotel Tirana was proceeding downwards at its regular judder, the next it was not. The capital was in the grip of one of the regular evening power cuts, the result of the entire population turning on its televisions at once for the evening news. There was only one other traveller, a teenage boy also bound for the evening's great event, the opening of the capital's first discotheque. He was relieved to share his plight with an outsider. "You shout, I'll bang," he said. "If they think we're foreign, they'll help us soon." Half an hour later, his theory seemed not to be entirely watertight.

Ruben ran one through his schooling, hobbies and aspirations: "To leave this place — not just the lift: Albania."

Finally, the flash of a torch indicated the arrival of the manager. There was, he announced, nothing he could do. We should wait until the power cut was over. And when might that be? "Could be one minute," came the reply. "Could be five days." Then

there was the sound of feet padding away.

Ruben remarked: "When they say that sort of thing in Albania, they always mean five days."

Continued shouting and banging was agreed upon instead. A group of south London accents floated in to earshot. Three minutes later, the rickety doors had been rent open by the brute force of three British photographers. As if by magic, the manager reappeared and surveyed the scene of the liberation. "Hooligans," he said.

At the disco, Tirana's *jeunesse dorée* was grooving in the candlelight. The private generator could cope with the sound system but not with flashing lights. "We can have either the lights or the music," the owner, a wealthy Kosovo Albanian, explained, "but not both."

The sole guest of honour was the Yugoslav ambassador, who danced an uneasy fox-trot with his wife to the stomping beat before leaving in a huff after being questioned too closely about his government's repressive policies in Kosovo.

There are not many parties here, so most of the disco-goers could be found again at the German embassy's post-election bash. "Quick," said the ambassador, clearly aware of the prime purpose of socialising in Tirana. "There's still something left to eat." Three fowl of uncertain origin were being hacked apart by the embassy cook for the hungry guests. "Do you have any sausages left?" enquired a German television correspondent hopefully. "Not socialist," came the indignant reply. "I am Democrat."

If John Major should feel in need of a filip in his electoral campaign, he should call Sali Berisha, Albania's new leader — providing he can wangle access to the single incoming telephone line to Tirana that works. Mr Berisha accosted the British press at the celebrations after his landslide victory to ask how the British prime minister was faring. "Mr Major is a wise and agreeable man," he boomed. "I wish him a majority as big as my own. Tell him if there is anything I can do to assist, I will."

Train to Auschwitz recalls Vichy victims

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

FIFTY years ago today the first trainload of French Jews rounded up under the German occupation set off from Paris to Auschwitz and the "night and fog" of the Final Solution. All but a handful of 1,100 in that convoy perished, and as the packed cattle wagons kept rolling east during the next two years well over 70,000 more Jews in France were deported to the death camps.

To mark this tragic anniversary, the Paris authorities have joined forces with Jewish community organisations to stage a moving exhibition dedicated to the memory of the victims, among whom were about 1,100 young children. Today's official opening by the mayor of the capital, Jacques Chirac, will also mark the end of renovation work on the centre housing the Memorial to the Unknown Jewish Martyr.

The uncompromising title of the exhibition, *Le Temps des Rafles* (Time of Hate Round-ups), serves as a sombre reminder of the degree to which France's Vichy government co-operated with the Nazis over the fate of its own Jewish citizens. Some French officials and police worked with little sign of repugnance within the highly organised

system that delivered them to the gas chambers.

The first internment camp for Jews in France at Drancy, in the suburbs of Paris, was established on the orders of the prefecture: it swiftly acquired the nickname of "ante-chamber to Auschwitz". Among the documents now on display are French archives providing names, addresses and descriptions of some 150,000 Jews: French gendarmes used that list to seize men, women and children from their homes and herd them on board the convoys to oblivion. The exhibition also reminds visitors, with films, seminars and survivors' testimony, of the non-Jews who risked their lives to harbour or save fugitives.

As an integral part of the exhibition, the passage of the Jews to their doom is to be commemorated symbolically by a journey along the same railway route across Germany and into Poland for arrival at the ramp in Auschwitz for a silent ceremony. For the Paris lawyer and Nazi-hunter, Serge Klarsfeld, who conceived the idea, this is a powerful opportunity to combine solemn remembrance with the coming of a new Europe in which such evil must never be allowed.

Cosmonaut is ready for another flight

FROM DAVID JUNGREN IN ZVYODNY GORODOK

SERGEI Krikalev, aged 33, the cosmonaut who missed the Soviet Union's collapse while he was stranded in orbit for ten months, said yesterday that he was ready to go back into space. "Being a cosmonaut is my job. Some rest is vital, so that I can get ready for work in space again," he told reporters at this space training centre near Moscow.

Mr Krikalev, a flight engineer, was unshaven and looking gaunt but in good spirits in spite of his 310-day stay in space. He was to have returned to Earth late last year but the mission to bring him back was cancelled because of budget cuts. He finally returned from the Mir space station on Wednesday with Aleksandr Volkov, who had spent 175 days in space, and Klaus-Dietrich Flade, a German air force officer who was in orbit for only eight days.

Wearing light blue overalls with the old "USSR" emblem on one arm, Mr Krikalev said that he had learnt from ground control roughly what was happening in and to the Soviet Union while he was stranded in space. He and his companions spoke to reporters through a thick pane of glass from a separate room in the space centre's medical unit.

"My health is quite normal, as it should be after a flight of that length," he said. "But I am not sure how long it will take me to get back to normal — one month, perhaps two."

The Mir space station, which has been manned almost continuously since 1986, was the focal point of the Soviet Union's space programme, which first started with the launch of the Soviet Sputnik satellite in 1957. Experts say the space station is reaching the end of its working life and must be modernised or destroyed in the next few years.

Mr Volkov said one of the highlights of his Mir mission had been the arrival of Herr Flade, who brought with him a selection of traditional German foods. "The food he brought with him was wonderful. We were really missing home cooking at that stage," he said.

Mr Volkov started the news conference in an angry mood, fiercely denying a report in the daily *Moskovsky Komsomolskiy* newspaper that he and the other two cosmonauts had parted the night away to celebrate their safe return. "We got back here and went straight to bed. We were in no condition to go boozing," he said. (Reuters)

Where's our London pride?

Despite its detractors, the capital is a fine place to live, says Tony Travers

London-bashing has become a popular sport. Opposition politicians, business leaders and cities elsewhere in Britain have formed a rainbow coalition of detractors. The capital is too crowded, too dirty, too expensive, too criminal, and has a collapsing "quality of life". A slide into economic decline is predicted.

Facts rarely play a part in the gloom-merchants' catalogue of despair. This is just as well, as the statistics show a rather different picture from these emotionally-charged attacks. Consider three key factors which provide evidence about the changing quality of life in London as compared with the rest of the country.

Crime is out of control in London? Well, not according to the figures. The total number of notifiable offences recorded by the police rose by 47 per cent in London between 1981 and 1991, while in England and Wales outside London, the comparable figure was 86 per cent. This staggering difference is some way from the conventional (and highly influential) perception of London as a city of crime.

On crime, housing and education, the hard facts don't bear out the catalogues of despair.

Wales outside London show an increase of more than 12 per cent. So, if crime fails the "London's burning" test, what about homelessness? Surely, Londoners are suffering out of all proportion to their neatly-housed provincial cousins. Wrong again. The number of registered homeless households in London rose by 113 per cent between 1980 and 1990, compared with a rise of 140 per cent in England outside London. Of course, it is still true that a higher proportion of households are homeless in London than in the rest of the country, although the gap is being reduced.

All right then, apart from crime and homelessness, surely London is educationally subnormal: this is why so many conscience-stricken NW3-types have had to bite the bullet and justify moving their offspring out of the state system. Here things look up a bit for the London bashers. Examination performance is marginally worse in London than in the country as a whole, though not by much. For example, 15.6 per cent of the capital's children get one or more A levels, compared with the national average of 17.1 per cent.

But for the discriminating and footloose parent, there are several London boroughs which spectacularly outpace the rest of the country. Barnet, Sutton and Richmond, for example, have excellent exam performances. Better still, London remains a magnet for graduates from all over Britain. Almost 15 per cent of the London workforce have a degree, com-

pared to only 6 per cent in the West Midlands, 7 per cent in the north-west and a country-wide average of just 8 per cent.

So, on three "quality of life" indicators, London is not in the grim state that its detractors suggest. Further evidence can be adduced from the most basic indicator of all: population. If the quality of life has deteriorated so much in the last few years, people would have voted with their feet. They have not done so. Between 1981 and 1990, the population of London was static. In the same period, Manchester's population declined by 3½ per cent and Bristol's by 7 per cent, while Glasgow, that miracle of urban regeneration, saw its population slump by 11 per cent. Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds and Sheffield are also on the way down.

None of the above is meant to imply that everything in London is rosy, merely to suggest that despite hard evidence to the contrary, the capital has been used by a number of commentators as a Great Exhibition of social prob-

lems. In reality, other places in Britain are getting worse faster. London's detractors often fail to point to the city's positive features or to failures in other places. Take the current debate about the location of the European Central Bank, in which Frankfurt is thought to have the advantage because of the supposed decline in London's quality of life. Comfy, suburban German cities may offer cleaner streets and picturesque towns, but it would only be fair to point out that they also offer highly-visible racism of a kind which would pose difficulties for African or Asian visitors to the European bank far outweighing the disadvantage of perhaps having to wait an extra few minutes for the tube.

Two factors more than any others create a problematic illusion of London life: the clapped-out Underground and the roofless in their cardboard boxes. The former is in difficulty, paradoxically, because its recent success has exposed decades of under-investment. The latter is the indirect consequence of policy changes affecting social security and health care during the 1980s, and is, by any standards, a national problem which just happens to have surfaced in the capital. Effort and money on a grand scale are now being devoted to both problems.

If comparisons are to be made involving London, let them be fair. Do not forget the downside of other cities at home and abroad. Do not imagine that failings such as dirty streets and rising crime exist only in the capital. London is a national asset: an internationally-recognised shop-window for the country. If its image is carelessly tarnished, so much the worse for us all.

The author is a research director at the London School of Economics.

The NHS always appears to be underfunded, whichever party is in power, argues Rudolf Klein

An incurable case

out of the statistics only by including the so-called efficiency savings. But in the 1990s, with the approach of an election, there has been an outburst of generosity. The autumn settlement provided an extra £2.2 billion for the NHS in England in 1992-3: a rise of 4.2 per cent in real terms.

Indeed the government has in some respects short-changed itself in the funding debate. Most of the argument has been based on the financing of hospital and community services. But expenditure on primary health care, which is not cash limited, has been rising much faster. Also, the government has been pouring money into residential and nursing home care through the social security system, so allowing hospitals to decant many of the elderly people from their beds, a saving for the NHS of possibly as much as a billion pounds.

But, however one manipulates

the figures, as both the government and the Opposition do, one thing is quite certain: the perception of underfunding will persist, and governments will continue to be blamed for everything that goes wrong in the NHS. This would be true even if Labour were to add a post-election bonanza to the pre-election sweetener of the Conservatives. There are two reasons why this is so.

First, there is the nature of health care, and the opportunities for extra spending that it offers. As the technology of medicine advances, what were once hi-tech procedures such as joint replacement, become, within decades, quite routine operations. Also, we have hardly begun to deal with disability, or started to improve the quality of life of those who cannot be cured: again, there is enormous potential for spending money for sensible and humane purposes.

Secondly, all those working in

the NHS have a vested interest in denigrating it. The phrase is Enoch Powell's, writing 30 years ago about his experience as minister of health. It remains as applicable as ever. In effect, managers, doctors and nurses all have an interest in drawing attention to the shortcomings of the NHS in order to attract more money for themselves.

This is not necessarily a cynical or deliberate strategy, but it does remove any responsibility for shortcomings from the service providers. Rather than blaming themselves, they can always blame underfunding. At any time in the history of the NHS, it has been possible to find examples of desperately ill people not being treated, or even being turned away to die. But searching out the usually complex reasons why this happens does not fit into the neat antitheses of political debate: it is much easier to lay all the blame on shortage of cash.

Other factors peculiar to the present government have reinforced this phenomenon. The Conservatives' reforms of the health service affronted the medical profession because they were introduced without consultation. Furthermore, they challenged the medical profession's autonomy: the new general practitioner contract spells out the GP's responsibilities as never before. This lingering resentment means, once again, that everything that goes wrong is blamed on the changes introduced by the government.

On the issue of the health service, therefore, the Conservatives can at best hope to limit the damage. An election campaign is hardly the best setting for trying to make sense of ambiguous data and difficult arguments. At most the Tories can console themselves with the thought that a Labour administration, if returned, would face much the same criticisms before the end of its term.

Rudolf Klein is professor of social policy at Bath University, and author of *The Politics of the NHS*.

Mitterrand loses his touch

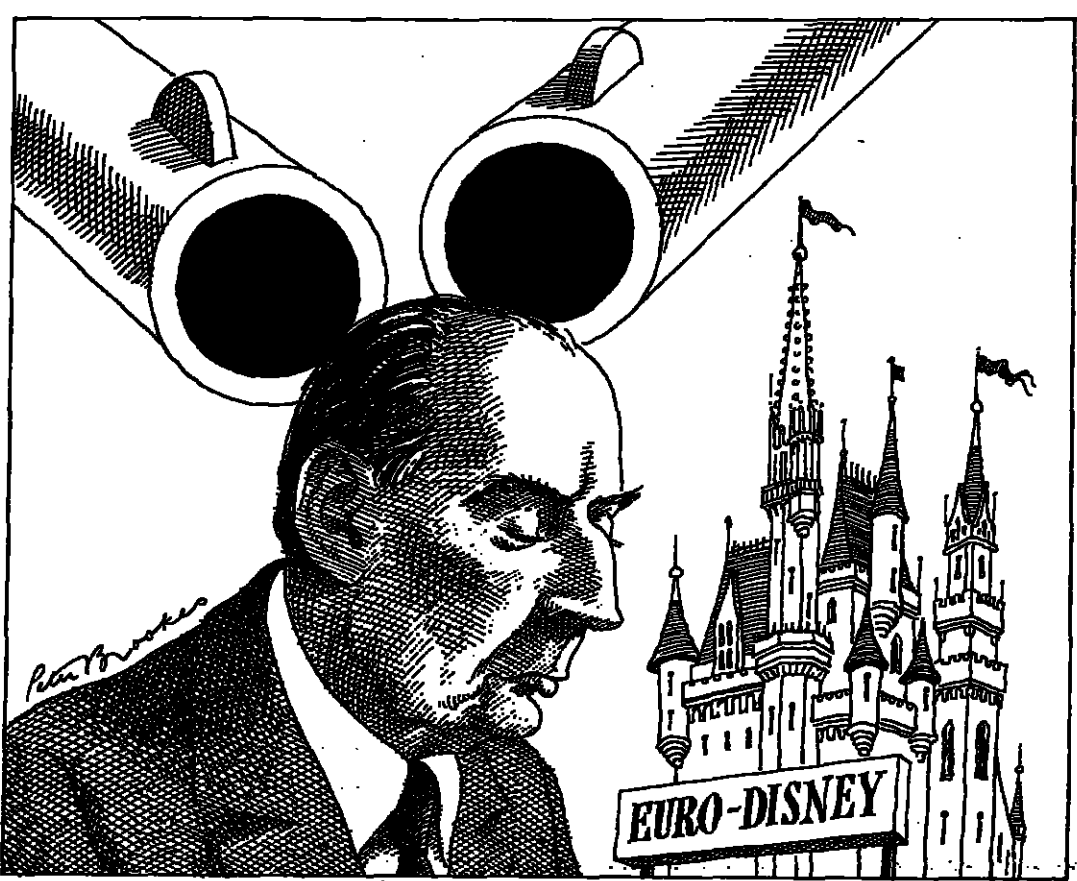
The French are no longer sure of their politics or culture, writes Patrick Marnham

Serge July, editor of the left-wing paper *Liberation*, summarised the results of last Sunday's French regional elections, which saw the collapse of the ruling Socialist party's vote, as "the end of the Mitterrand era". And on the morning after the poll, the editor of *Le Monde* was writing of "the collapse of the structure of the 5th Republic".

The regional elections have resulted in a curious situation in which there are no winners and prizes for no one — the opposite of the Lewis Carroll's caucus race. The Socialist party, with 18.3 per cent support, has achieved its worst result in a national election since it was founded by François Mitterrand at the Congress of Epinay in 1971. All over France, Socialist party stars sent out to lead regional voting lists have been ignominiously defeated.

Yet the democratic right — united as the UPR — has also managed to lose 8 per cent of the votes it won at the previous regional elections in 1986. And though the National Front is able to claim an improved vote, with 13.9 per cent, its leader Jean-Marie Le Pen was unable to conceal his disappointment at failing to win control of a single region. His party's vote was smaller than the total he himself gained in the 1988 presidential election.

The Communist party, with 8 per cent support, has again failed to reverse its steady decline, and even the Greens, who achieved a remarkable result, putting them equal third with the National Front, were regretting that their vote was split between the Verts (the official Green party) and Génération Ecologie (a newly-founded breakaway group led by



a charismatic Mitterrandist minister).

As a result of holding the elections by proportional representation, there is now no workable majority in 15 of the 22 regions. But it has occurred to some alarmed observers that this may not be the end of the Mitterrand era after all. If Sunday's voting pattern were repeated in next year's legislative elections under the traditional first-past-the-post system, the UPR would win an overall majority of 93 in the National Assembly, where the National Front would hold only 2 seats. But if President Mitterrand should move the goalposts — as he has the power to do — and introduce proportional voting for legislative elections as well, then the UPR would fail to gain an overall majority and the National Front would win 77 seats. The Socialist party would win about

140 seats under either system.

The result under proportional representation would be a National Assembly in which the balance of power and President Mitterrand could present himself for the last two years of his presidential term as the only effective opponent of the extreme right. Could Mitterrand muster the cynicism needed to retain power by handing Jean-Marie Le Pen 77 seats in the National Assembly? The answer from observers of all political tendencies comes thundering back: "Yes, he could."

This week, the attacks on President Mitterrand have been bitter, and they have come from all sides. He has been accused of covertly reducing French politics to an Italian level, and the man who is supposed to be "the leader of all the French" is said to have divided and redivided the electorate for

his own advantage, heedless of the cost to the nation. Under President Mitterrand, the Fifth Republic has become a democracy in which the individual in power can change the rules of the political game more or less as he pleases. It had already failed to reach agreement on something as fundamental as the financing of its political parties. Today those parties are seen by articulate Gaullist deputies such as Philippe Séguin and Philippe de Villiers as bearing more resemblance to sophisticated systems of patronage and cronyism than to bodies representing currents of national opinion.

As recently as 1989, when it was celebrating the bicentenary of the revolution, France seemed to be an economic model for Europe and the continent's political leader. How can it have reached its current state so quickly?

Beneath the superficial turmoil of regional election results there is a more profound disturbance in France today; its origins were political, but it has become just as much national and cultural. It began with German reunification and the Gulf war. The speed of the first, followed by the collapse of the Soviet Union, left President Mitterrand visibly shocked and out of his depth in an area where he had formerly presented himself as a man of vision. French support for the Gulf war destroyed the country's Middle East policy and was a brutal demonstration of national pretentiousness on a world stage which is not so much dominated as monopolised by the United States.

Now, in preventing agreement on Gatt's Uruguay Round in order to protect French agriculture, the French government seems destined to suffer another humiliation at American hands. France today, like Britain in 1956, is a country which has lost a (European) empire and found no alternative role.

By an appropriate coincidence, the current turmoil has broken out just two weeks before the opening outside Paris of Euro-Disneyland, a 5,000-acre site which is the very symbol of American cultural imperialism. While the arrival of Mickey Mouse has led to an anguished intellectual debate about the unimportance of French culture, the political landscape outside the gates of Disney is almost as bizarre as anything inside.

The great barons of the Socialist party, limping back to Paris with their trousers round their knees, are squabbling about how best to rig the next game, are greeted by the savants of the Académie Française, lamenting the Anglo-Saxon assault on the French language. But no one is listening. Instead, chattering about *le fast food*, *le weekend* and adding *jazz-moi*, the French are queuing up to buy a deformed version of their own fairy tales, marketed by a staff of French natives whose first condition of employment is that they should not, while at work, speak French.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

Were my mother still around, you would not be reading this. That is because she would have written the editor a note saying "Dear Mr Jenkins, Alan is suffering from a bilious attack so I'm keeping him in bed." You would be using this space to jot telephone messages and decode crossword anagrams, while I should be propped limply among the cushions, reading *The Beano*, drinking Tizer, and listening to Workers' Playtime.

She would have spared you much: a bilious attack shared is rarely a bilious attack halved, and before we get to the foot of column three we may well have parted company, you and I, perhaps for good. But my contractual obligation at this stand is to provide a sideways look at life, and since it is becoming increasingly difficult to look life in the eye at all, it follows that there will be days when the louche view is the only one there is, however dispiriting the consequences.

Let us call them the days of the feelbad factor. We do not hear much about the feelbad factor, possibly because those who suffer it most are too busy attaching the noose to the joist or stirring the styrene into the cocoa, but its insidious spread is accelerating. You can smell it on the wind, you can taste it in the water, and, if you throw up the easement and cock an ear, you can hear it in the unmistakable rattle of a handcart lurching towards hell.

My own current bout began

on Sunday night, in Grosvenor House, at the BAFTA awards. Infuriatingly, it crept up when I was feeling rather good: browed, sluiced, surrounded by jolly friends. I was even able to handle the reflection that at our last meeting, the royal radiance at the next table was not yet a marital casualty (with all that increasingly portended), until an Australian transvestite suddenly shimmered onstage and made a joke about it. I did not walk out, but I felt an armpit prickle. Then someone else pranced on and gave the Best Actor gong to Anthony Hopkins for playing a cannibal in as catchpenny a piece of gratuitous nastiness as I have ever squirmed at, and the worm was in the bud. I tied on a couple more, and slunk home to think glum thoughts.

I awoke from them to a phone-call informing me that *Punch* had snuffed it. The caller wanted to know why. I did not say that, despite the best efforts of all concerned, it had failed to descend to a low enough level to find the audience it had incomprehensibly chosen to seek, because there seemed scant point, and it didn't matter, anyway. To lose *Punch* after 150 years because Britain has outgrown it and would rather read *Viz* is just as unimportant as driving judderfreight across Twyford Down or embracing karaoke within the GCSE music syllabus: why it should fuel the feelbad factor, who can say?

Particularly if who is concentrating on the general

election. Which, next day, brought me John Major in a Nissan factory, insisting that only Conservatism could revive our car industry by stimulating interest in foreign parts (which Britons could bolt together). Neil Kinnock shooting himself in the ear with a length of NHS *petit Guignol* at once more fleshcreeping and less credible than *The Silence of the Lambs*; and Jeremy Ashdown, as he perhaps understandably prefers not to be known, vaulting a fence in a flashy but vain bid to show what he was not sitting on.

I went to bed again after that, and early, partly because I needed time to ponder why the news that Ken Russell was to direct *Lady Chatterley's Lover* had unaccountably failed to make me feel any better, but primarily because I had to be up at dawn so that Alistair could tell me, while the drinks were coming out, that Heseltine had decided to sell County Hall not to the LSE after all but to some Japanese people who wanted to create a tourist complex. Since I do not know what a tourist complex is, I can only assume it to be a mental disorder afflicting foreign visitors unable to work out Britain's priorities.

And, yes, you know why the drinks were coming out at dawn: we had convened beneath Alistair's dish to watch the cricket. So might it then be that the feelbad factor is just the result of the result?

Perhaps, but if it were only that, wouldn't I feel better?

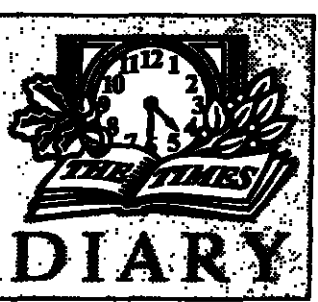
More of the same?

REMEMBER where you saw it first. It was yesterday's *Diary* which disclosed that Conservative Central Office had learnt in advance about Labour's controversial party political broadcast. We reported that William Waldegrave had set up a damage limitation team, led by his special adviser Richard Marsh, to deal with just such stories during the campaign.

Tipped off in advance from the inside, Richard Marsh ensured that sympathetic newspapers were briefed even before Labour's broadcast went out, so that the morning papers were able to pour scorn on Labour's claims yesterday. It was just the sort of slick operation the Tories had previously failed to mount. The...

Well there may be more to come. Waldegrave's team is shadowing the work of Labour's "media initiative unit", which despite the furore over Jennifer Bennett, is collecting further human interest health stories. After compiling a dossier of more than a thousand cases, the unit has set up a special telephone line for the public to supply alleged instances of delayed NHS treatment.

Heading the unit is Phil Woolas, a former television journalist, who has coordinated the handling of hundreds of cases brought to his 11 staff since Tuesday night's programme. They now have enough stories to bombard the public with a dozen a day for the duration of the campaign if the public has the appetite. The unit is supported by three powerful advertising gurus: Barry Delaney, Philip Gould and Chris Powell, brother of Mrs Thatcher's former foreign policy adviser, Sir Charles.



● The Conservation Foundation inside the Royal Geographical Society is being inundated with telephone calls for John Major. But Major has not been near the RGS during the election campaign, although Neil Kinnock last week filmed some of his next election broadcasts there. There is a simple explanation. "I think the directory enquiries computerised system has got us mixed up with Conservative Central Office," says David Shreeve, the foundation's director.

Mandarins' man

ONE civil servant anxiously awaiting the result on April 9 must be Britain's ambassador in Moscow, Sir Rodric Braithwaite. He was expected to take over later in the spring from Sir Percy Cradock as special foreign policy adviser in Downing Street.

The job was invented by Mrs Thatcher after the Falklands War as an alternative source of advice to the then suspect Foreign Office. The post was filled by Sir Anthony Parsons, but like so many Whitehall jobs, it did not fade away when the need for it was gone. As quid pro quo for the offensive post existing, the FO has always succeeded in getting its own man appointed and using him as a useful friend within the court.

Braithwaite, as the brightest star not to have made either ambassador to Washington or permanent secretary, is an obvious choice. He is both an Atlanticist and a Russophile. With the FO eagerly building a bureaucratic empire for Britain's Euro-presidency later this year, John Major, who had agreed to the Braithwaite appointment, would become an in-house sceptic with strong contacts with both America and Russia. But would Neil Kinnock and his putative foreign secretary, Gerald Kaufman, feel the same?

White House tales

THE label "the man Moscow wants in the White House" would in times gone by have been enough to sink the chances of any presidential hopeful. Today, however, Bill Clinton can make the claim in the hope that it will enhance his



accident-prone campaign. The alleged support of Boris Yeltsin comes via Andrew Solomon, a New Yorker who has become Clinton's adviser on Russian affairs and who found himself during a holiday last August manning the barricades with Yeltsin's supporters during the coup.

"I was going for dinner when we

heard the news and took to the streets instead. I saw a young man attempting to convince a tank commander to turn back. He said he had orders to destroy our barricades, but he was talked into bowing to the will of the people."

Solomon, who is now helping to set up an Institute of Contemporary Arts in Moscow, then clambered on top of the tank outside the White House in Moscow — a picture which he hopes will soon be hanging on the wall of the other White House, in Washington.

● How seriously can we take the boast of *The Independent*, whose front page each day proclaims that its election coverage is "impartial"? From the City Road newsroom comes intelligence that two of its reporters, Geraldine Norman, the saleroom correspondent, and her deputy, John Windsor, are standing for the Natural Law Party. "But I won't be campaigning. That is against our party's policy," she says.

Acting guilty

BROADWAY'S version of *Death and the Maiden*, which opened last week, has been hit by further controversy. Following the outcry over the exclusion first of the British cast and then of Hispanic actors, Glenn Close has become the latest target of the protestors.

Close, who plays the role taken by Juliet Stevenson in the British production, has failed the New York political correctness test — or rather her father has. He is none other than the personal physician to Mobutu Sese Seko, the president of Zaïre. Protestors picketing the Brooks Atkinson Theatre claim that Dr William Close has "condoned the policies of a dictator". In the play, his daughter takes the role of Paulina — the victim of a dictator.



EVASION OF JUSTICE

If the Libyan government had been a human plaintiff presenting its case to the International Court of Justice yesterday, it might have been a woman dressed demurely in black, sporting bruises where her husband had knocked her about, hoping to win immediate sympathy from the public gallery and the jury. Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, one of the age's great disregarders of international law, has suddenly become enamoured of it, and is trying to recruit it to prevent the international community imposing sanctions on his country.

He has a superficial case. Britain and America, he says, are attempting "illegal and arbitrary blackmail" by threatening punitive UN sanctions and possibly military action in an attempt to force Libya to hand over the two suspects for the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1988. He cites the Montreal Convention on safety in civil aviation, which gives Libya the right to try the suspects itself. He points out that Libya has extradition treaties with neither country. He claims that the Western states have not provided enough prima facie evidence of the suspects' guilt and fears that, in an election year, the suspects' rights could be sacrificed to the two governments' desire to act tough.

Moreover, Libya questions whether they could be guaranteed a fair trial in either Scotland or America. The release of the Birmingham Four and the Guildford Six has shown up Britain's record of jailing innocent people for terrorist offences. Much of the evidence surrounding the Lockerbie incident, which could prejudice any subsequent trial, has already been published. And as corroboration of Britain's and America's aggressive and unlawful intent, Colonel Gaddafi can point to the bombing raid on Tripoli in 1986, an act of revenge for a terrorist bombing in Berlin for which Libya

seems not even to have been responsible. So far so reasonable, but no further.

Colonel Gaddafi has supported multifarious terrorist groups working to destabilise Western states, including Britain. Despite occasional professions to the contrary, he has given no evidence that he has stopped doing so. If he wanted to illustrate his intention to disavow his past transgressions, he could, for instance, give the British government information about what he supplied to the IRA, when and to whom.

His recourse to the ICJ is blatant prevarication. The court takes about two years to deliver a final judgment. Colonel Gaddafi claims that all UN action should cease until it decides. Had Saddam Hussein appealed to the court to adjudicate on Iraq's border dispute with Kuwait immediately after his invasion, and had he then expected the allies to leave him in possession while the court pondered, he would have met with an equally brusque response.

Colonel Gaddafi's strategem has been to generate as much random noise as possible in the hope of drowning out the demands of the rest of the world. He has now made numerous offers with different conditions attached, and then withdrawn them. Even his friends in the Arab League have given up on him: yesterday they said they had suspended their attempts to negotiate a handover of the suspects because Libya had shown no flexibility.

Libya's government employed the two Lockerbie suspects as intelligence agents at a time when it was plainly sponsoring terrorism. It cannot plausibly be allowed to act as judge, jury and accused in this case. Libya's past actions have ruled it out of court in international law. It must comply with the United Nations' Security Council resolution 731 and hand over the suspects forthwith.

PACIFIED UNIONS

The Tories played the union card yesterday. Like Labour's health card of the day before, this was a predictable set-piece of the election. Unfortunately for the Tories, however, union-bashing is no longer the winner it once was. The unions scarcely register on the public opinion scanner as an election issue.

Yet if today's unions seem pacified and moderate, this can only be because the Thatcher government marked them out as enemies for one of its earliest and most complete victories. Fewer days are currently being lost by strikes than at any time in the last 60 years, the trend continuing through boom and recession. That very success presents the Tories with a tactical dilemma. The more they boast of past triumphs by stressing how industrially peaceful the trade union scene now is, the more difficult it becomes to scare the voters with the prospect of industrial mayhem if Labour is elected.

Labour is proposing some adjustments to the law but its front bench spokesman, Tony Blair, insists the changes would make not much difference. The employment secretary, Michael Howard, has been claiming the reverse, that Labour intends to undo all Margaret Thatcher's good work. He implies that a Labour government would return the law to what it was in 1979, even giving unions extra powers they did not enjoy then. The truth is more mundane. Labour would keep the essence of the Tory reforms: the enforcement of democracy in a trade union's internal affairs, and the ending of the general immunity of unions from legal action when their members strike. Immunity would only be allowed, as now, if certain conditions — a secret ballot, for instance — had been met. Otherwise, as now, unions would be liable to pay damages to an aggrieved employer. Mr Howard has proposed, reasonably enough, that union liability be extended to include aggrieved members of the public.

The real legal battleground, not foreseen by either side at the time of the first industrial relations reform, has been over applications for injunctions. Unions have

complained that the judge-made rules governing injunctions were evolved to deal with commercial not industrial disputes. Part of the quarrel between Mr Blair and Mr Howard (barristers both) is over whether Labour's proposed remedies for this are unnecessary, reasonable or excessive. The Tories are hampered by the difficulty of making such technical details look like issues of principle.

What matters far more is the cultural change in British trade unionism initiated by Mrs Thatcher's government. The change has taken the unions away from being outside legal regulation and into a new spirit of law-abidingness. If Mr Blair is to be believed, this spirit will remain under Labour. But for the good of British industrial relations, if not for Tory election chances, Mr Howard does well to force him to say so as often and as categorically as possible.

The argument is between lawyers is a sign of the times. The Tory reforms have shifted the emphasis from collective to individual rights, from the rights of unions to the rights of union members. Labour's thinking is now in the same direction. Its proposal for ballots to allow a workforce to claim the right to union representation implies the right to choose which union. This fits ill with the Bridlington agreement — which the Tories wish to end — under which the TUC dictates which union shall organise in which industry.

This fits well, though, with the "new realism" on employment rights, which sees the law as the chief agent of employment safeguard, unions as their members' advisers and facilitators. Having both moved this way, less now separates Labour and the Tories than either likes to pretend. The public has noticed the change. It may still be concerned at the influence of unions in the public services; it may dislike the continuing role of unions in Labour's own affairs. But it is a measure of the Tories' success at reforming the unions — and it is to the trade union movements' credit too — that the public is satisfied the reforms are irreversible.

PASSING BRAVE

To have Tamerlane as a compatriot might seem a matter for commiseration; to try to take him away from somebody else looks positively perverse. Yet as *The Times* correspondent in Samarkand describes today, the Uzbeks and Tadzhiks are quarrelling with each other for the honour of having him as their national hero, placing his statues on the public pedestals hurriedly vacated by Lenin.

Nor is this particular Scourge of God the first to be rehabilitated. Reports from Mongolia suggest that Genghis Khan's only real problem was the lack of a good press office, which would have pointed out to his victims that they should have judged him "by the standards of his time" — Mongolian standards, of course. Vlad the Impaler was a strong Romanian ruler who restored order and repelled invaders. His mistake was failing to listen to the best legal advice before surrendering to Hollywood the right to film his biography.

Mongolian and Romanian readers must pardon such levity. No better can have been expected of the English, who instead of agonising over the rival merits of William the Conqueror and Henry VIII as models for liberal-capitalist state development, turned them into a book of jokes called *1066 and All That*. Unfortunately history as it is being lived in the former communist countries today is no joke. Every traveller to those lands meets some citizens, young or old, who praise Stalin as a "strong ruler" and demands the restoration of some form of Stalinist rule. This is no joke either: it is all too real a threat. Thus the misery of the present gives a golden glow to the miseries of the past. And weak nations tend automatically to worship strong

leaders, as if, by act of will, they can make them strong too.

If throughout its history a nation has been ruled by a series of tyrants, and autocracy is the only real political model the country knows, then there is logic in it seeking as its national hero the most famous autocrat, the greatest and the worst. All of these factors will help the ghosts of Lenin and Stalin to go on stalking Russia for a long time to come. Tamerlane died almost six hundred years ago; will Lenin's image last as long as that? And how will he be remembered in the centuries to come?

The answer is of course that Lenin will be buried or revived by the actions of his successors, their success or failure, their benevolence or tyranny. England has turned Henry VIII into a national joke because he was followed by good monarchs, constitutional rule and national prosperity. If since then history had seemed like nothing more than a series of filmscripts entitled *Return of Henry VIII* and *The Revenge of Henry VIII*, it too might be debating his importance as a national symbol.

One thing will undermine the memory of Lenin and Stalin whichever way history turns out: bad taste. The stones themselves remember Tamerlane; his monuments in Central Asia are still grand and beautiful enough to evoke awe and admiration, as Marlowe's monstrous hero foretold:

Then shall my native city Samarkand, And crystal waves of fresh Joerts' stream, The pride and beauty of her princely seat, Be famous through the furthest continents.

By contrast, the ugly, gimcrack monuments of communism are crumbling away even before Leninism is cold in the grave.

Putting British scientists under the election microscope

From Mr Alan Howarth

Sir, Science is one of our great glories in Britain. The achievements of British scientists — whether measured conventionally in terms of publications and citations, or whether judged more qualitatively — are remarkable, particularly by reference to the size of our population and of our economy. One must question therefore why Professor Nurse and other scientists have offered such a gloomy view in your columns (letter, March 23).

While splendidly rigorous in their own specialist fields, when it comes to lobbying for public resources and political campaigning even the most eminent scientists are liable to be curiously fanciful and melodramatic.

Scientists insist that the costs of their activity must rise faster than general inflation, but a lot of other groups also make that claim, and the government has to make judgments about the resources that can be made available from the economy as a whole. In fact the government has allowed a special case for science. Although our economic strategy has been to increase the proportion of national resources deployed in the private sector, we have always accepted that government has a unique and indispensable responsibility to support basic science.

In the financial year about to start the government's science budget will have increased by 25 per cent above general inflation since 1978-9, and our plans already published show that figure rising to 30 per cent. Britain's public expenditure on civil science as a proportion of GDP exceeds that of the USA and Japan. Our capacity to spend still more will depend on the future performance of the economy, and those who care about the future of science in this country should consider which party in government would be most likely to provide for sustainable economic growth.

The "brain drain" is one of those snappy bits of rhetoric that serve as a substitute for thought. Advanced science has long been a thoroughly international affair. It is true that in the 1960s there was a worrying exodus from Britain of post-doctoral scientists. But academic protectionism will serve us ill and we have no cause for nervous insularity. Every year since 1983 we have seen a net inflow of academics into Britain.

It is excessively self-deprecating for your correspondents to suggest that scientists now working in Britain are some depressed rump. To take a handful of examples, world-class scientific research is being done in British universities — on molecular biology at Oxford, biorganic chemistry at Dundee, magnetic resonance imaging at Nottingham, parallel computing at Edinburgh, surface chemistry at Liverpool and environmental science at Imperial College.

A little more pride and generosity in recognising the outstanding achievements of their colleagues might serve your correspondents better in enlisting public enthusiasm for the cause of science.

In Britain we are concentrating resources in centres of excellence as assessed by peer review. Among the universities at which your correspondents are based, the latest Universities Funding Council allocations for research imply an increase for Oxford of 16 per cent, Edinburgh 17 per cent, London 14 per cent, Cambridge 19 per cent, Dundee 12 per cent and Glasgow 14 per cent.

Nuclear accidents

From Commander J. F. Webb RN (ret)

Sir, The latest radiation leak in Russia (reports and letter, March 25) helps to point the way ahead for nuclear power generation in Britain which, despite the views of present-day Luddites, holds the best hope of providing civilised levels of life for future generations.

The International Atomic Energy Authority must be accorded safety responsibility and full powers to approve all nuclear power station projects and to inspect and shut down any which are not operated and maintained to a sufficient standard.

Yours faithfully,
J. F. WEBB,
21 Fairmile,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
March 24.

A royal split

From Mr J. A. Walsh

Sir, Ben Macintyre's interesting article (March 20) about the acrimonious divorce of George IV from the famously promiscuous Queen Caroline of Brunswick called to mind the reported graffiti of the day, which ran:

O Gracious Queen, we thee implore
To go away and sin no more
But if the strain should prove too great
To go away, at any rate.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. WALSH,
30 Outways Lane, Ashted, Surrey.

From Mr Chris Boylan

Sir, What a lot of fuss (letters, March 24). The Church of England was founded in order to facilitate a royal divorce.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS BOYLAN,
3 Walden Avenue, Chislehurst, Kent.

They are not being so badly treated.

The Conservative party respects and values British science and a new Conservative government would continue to support science in Britain intelligently and generously.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN HOWARTH
(Under Secretary of State with responsibility for Science, Department of Education and Science),
3 Trinity Street,
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.
March 26.

From Professor Lord Beloff, FBA

Sir, As one who has frequently advocated greater financial support for basic scientific research, I am disposed to agree with the plea of Professor Nurse and his co-signatories. But I know of no reason to assume that a Labour government would prove more forthcoming, while it is clear that Labour's tax plans would lead to a massive acceleration of the "brain drain" which cannot be for the good of British science.

And there is another non-financial aspect of the matter. To have a healthy scientific community we need a succession of students well equipped to enter upon a scientific career. For this end, high standards are required in the schools with particular attention to able boys and girls who may wish to specialise in the sciences.

But all the measures taken by the Conservative government to improve education over the past 13 years have been opposed root and branch by both Opposition parties still mired in the shoddy progressivism and egalitarianism of the Shirley Williams era.

Of all parts of our society, the academic would have the least to gain and the most to lose from a change of government.

Yours truly,
BELOFF,
Flat 9, 22 Lewes Crescent,
Brighton, East Sussex.
March 23.

From Mr Christopher McKnight

Sir, The scientists give the game away when they write, "the costs of staying at the frontiers of research rise faster than general inflation". Thus they do not deny that funding has increased in real terms (they cannot); their criticism is rather that the government has not given special privileges to such funding.

In similar fashion, those who criticise the government over health and education do not deny that more is being spent on the NHS in real terms than ever before and that in education funding per pupil is higher than it ever has been.

Rather they argue that costs in these areas have risen more than inflation and their complaint is that these areas have not been given special privileges. If everyone makes such claims they can only be satisfied by huge increases in taxation.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MCKNIGHT,
17 Sandhurst Drive, Belfast 9.
March 23.

From Sir Alyn Williams, FRSE, FRSE

Sir, Much as I sympathise with the drift of the letter on election priorities for UK scientists, I am concerned by the way its authors have supported their case with the sort of statistics that normally belong to the hustings. I do not know whether the average

Large salaries

From Mr Bryan P. Wilson

Sir, In my more imaginative moments I believe that the chairmen of privatised industries have been planted by communists in order to ridicule and destroy our capitalist system, such is the extent to which greed has overcome what should have been gratitude to Mrs Thatcher and Mr Major.

Explanations given for the salaries of around half a million pounds ("British Gas chief gets 17.6 per cent pay rise", report, March 24) include a reward for responsibility, the need to attract people to such work and to be given the same pay as others in allegedly similar work.

May I pay tribute to the true industrialists, not operating in monopoly situations. These are heads of companies who cut their salaries in a recession. They have the good sense to lead by example and not by arrogance.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN WILSON,
Clarendon, Off West Road,
Dibden Purlieu,
Southampton, Hampshire.

From Mr S. J. Coomber

Sir, In your Business Comment, "Hot air over pay at British Gas" (March 24) you suggest that the public should compare the pay of British Gas chairman Robert Evans with that of "popular singers".

Surely you are missing the point: popular singers are paid according to what their fans buy, or what their record companies believe they can sell, whereas those people who pay British Gas are presumably "died" to their gas supplier, have no alternative to choose from and must pay the prices asked by British Gas.

Yours faithfully,
S. J. COOMBER,
157 Waterloo Road,
Uxbridge, Middlesex.

'Radical changes' in civil service

From the General Secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants

Sir, Your leading article, "The servant problem" (March 23), openly applauds the enduring strengths of the British civil service — "its transferable technology" available to any party of government, its apolitical character, and its tradition of the generalist. Sadly, however, you fail to acknowledge the radical changes in the civil service of the last few years.

Since 1989 over half the civil service, more than 250,000 individuals, have transferred into new organisations with new chief executives. What part of the private sector can match that flexibility or that speed of change? What part of the private sector can equal the record of the Inland Revenue in bringing in the largest computer project in Western Europe on budget and on time? These changes are not "ponderous". They have been swift, radical and efficient.

The civil service may not hire and fire on the open market, but neither do the largest private-sector companies — they grow their own directors and chief executives. The civil service recruits through clear rules of open competition — not through head-hunters or network links, the private-sector methods which have led to so pitifully few women and ethnic minorities in senior positions in the private sector.

It is the government, not the civil service, that has indulged in an "exotic" exercise in attempting to pay civil servants performance-linked pay; but crucially the government's crude methodology has laid them open to charges of sexual discrimination and possible legal challenge.

Most civil servants welcome the development of agencies, management flexibility, the promotion of those with ability, a freer exchange with the private sector, and improving services to the public. Many would welcome private-sector-style personal contracts — provided salaries reflect that change. But as you point out, to attract the right talent, competitive salaries must be offered. Civil servants will await with eagerness a *Times* editorial after the recommendations of the Top Salaries Review Body later this year.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH SYMONS,
General Secretary,
The Association of First Division Civil Servants,
2 Caxton Street, SW1.
March 23.

Aid for Albania

From Sir John Stokes

Sir, I returned from Albania last night, having been leader of the Council of Europe delegation to observe the elections, which we found to be free and fair. I agree with all of Miss Peacock's letter (March 23), but as well as skill-aid what is also needed in Albania is leadership to inspire people to work again after having lost all hope. It is a crisis of morale.

We do need a diplomatic presence in Tirana and although the main priority for the Foreign Office is the new countries emerging from the old USSR I have pressed the Foreign Office about this.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOKES,
20 Barn, Church End,
Haddenham, Buckinghamshire.
March 24.

Thatcher whammy?

From the Director, Aims of Industry

Sir, The greatness of Friedrich von Hayek was rightly stressed by your obituary (March 25) and by Lord Joseph (article) and Sir Alan Peacock (appreciation). Perhaps I could mention Hayek's attitude to Mrs Thatcher.

When we were arranging for him to receive an international free enterprise award from Mrs Thatcher, Professor Hayek wrote to me: "Tell Mrs Thatcher that she is not a Conservative but a Whig." I obliged.

"Tell Professor Hayek", wrote Mrs Thatcher, "that I am a Conservative and a Whig".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL IVENS, Director,
Aims of Industry,
40 Doughty Street, WC1.
March 25.

Dressing up

From Mrs Jane Steel-Jessop

Sir, Paul Heiney's remarks on farmers' clothing ("Dress for victory to win the nation's sympathy vote", March 21) prompt me to tell you that when I was evacuated early in the second world war with my three children to Bedfordshire, I was digging for victory in my cottage garden with a very old inhabitant leaning on the gate.

A shiny new black Jaguar (a rarity then) came past slowly, the driver clad in smart Harris tweed. He smiled and waved a regal hand. "Cor, look at ol' Sid", remarked my friend. "Afore the war 'e 'ad a rusty ol' bike w' no brakes and the arse outa his trousers."

Yours sincerely,
J. STEEL-JESSOP,
13 Smiths Crescent,
Kessington, Suffolk.
March 22.

Business letters, page 23
Sports letters, page 34

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

OBITUARIES

HAROLD PROBYN

Air Commodore Harold "Daddy" Probyn, CV, CBE, DSO, Commandant of RAF Cranwell during the last war, died in hospital in Kenya on March 24 aged 100. He was born on December 8, 1891.

IT WAS while "Daddy" Probyn was Commandant at Cranwell that the Gloster-Whittle E28/39, Sir Frank Whittle's famous jet aircraft, made its first proper flight. It took the air on the evening of May 15, 1941, to the astonishment of all who saw it. Most of those spectators had no idea of what was being assembled in a fairly remote hangar on the RAF station. The appearance of the short, stubby machine at the end of a day's flying created a very considerable stir. This new structure which took off into the air had no propeller like any proper aircraft and its engine made an extraordinary sound: the sound of a jet.

Harold Melsome Probyn made a move in the first world war that was to affect the rest of his career. He was seconded in 1915 from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment to the Royal Flying Corps. Life above the ground suited him and two years later he won a DSO for conspicuous gallantry in France, which recognised the work he had done reconnoitering behind enemy lines. Aerial photography was an interest to remain with him. He was also mentioned in despatches.

In between the wars he continued to be involved in air photography, was Senior Engineer Staff Officer, Middle East, and served at No 12

Fighter Group, RAF Hucknall. In 1939-40 he was Senior Air Staff Officer at the famous No 11 Fighter Group. At Cranwell "Daddy" Probyn had much to do with the training of Czech and Polish airmen who had managed to flee their countries after the German invasion.

Probyn, though a firm disciplinarian, was not one to ride around sealed up in a staff car. He liked to see for himself and went about the station on a tall bicycle. Even mounted thus he expected — and got — a salute, which he returned with slattery. The offensive spirit burned fiercely in him. He might have been too old to fly operationally during the war — hence his nickname — but Cranwell legend has it that he had access to a fighter aircraft and on one occasion used it to chase some German bombers who had presumed to fly too close to "his" aerodrome. True or not, the tale was much in character. Certainly to celebrate his retirement in the summer of 1944 he got hold of a Spitfire and flew it over Normandy.

Probyn retired to Nyeri in Kenya, where he started building his own aircraft, on one occasion borrowing the engine from his wife's Volkswagen. He refused to acknowledge that there came a time when flying should be no more. He was seen in a television newsreel marking his ninetieth birthday by taking a trip in a small aircraft he had built himself. Naturally, he was the pilot and, equally naturally, he flew solo.

He married in 1920 Marjorie, daughter of F. E. Savory. She died in 1961.

ISAIAH TISHBY

Professor Isaiah Tishby, religious scholar and author of books on Jewish mysticism and messianism, died in Jerusalem on March 15 aged 83. He was born in Hungary in 1909.

ISAIAH Tishby won acclaim for taking mystic medieval Jewish texts and interpreting them in a manner more easily comprehensible to modern man. A student of the foremost scholar in this field, the late Professor Gershom Scholem, Tishby was widely recognised as his successor and the leading academic figure in research into the Cabbala and Hassidism.

Two major trends have characterised Jewish religious thought throughout the centuries. The dominant one has been rationalism, as represented by the larger part of the Talmud and the commentary writings accompanying it. But there have also been adherents of mysticism seeking a path to knowledge through writings such as the *Sefer Yetzira* (the book of creation) and the *Zohar* (splendor) which form the Cabbala.

Cabbalists have sought to understand God, the mysteries of the universe and the role of man in the divine scheme of things by seeking to unlock what they believed to be "the hidden wisdom" in biblical texts. The very letters of the Hebrew alphabet, they believed, had numerical and magic powers which would work wonders if correctly combined into various words and cyphers and particularly into spelling out the true name of God.

Their fantasies and philosophies date back to ancient times, but became especially



attractive to the impoverished and persecuted Jewish communities in the middle-ages. The Cabbalists ultimately yearned to see the hastening of the messiah and the redemption of the Jewish people — but were drawn into paths of mysticism and superstition which only contributed to paving the way for a string of charismatic but false messiahs.

The most infamous of these was Shabtai Zvi who in the middle of the seventeenth century attracted a following of thousands, toured the courts of Europe, was even received by the Pope in Rome, then converted to Islam after being imprisoned

by the Turks. This betrayal of belief caused such shock and disillusionment among the Jewish masses that future self-styled messiahs were never able to gain any widespread following.

In the early eighteenth century however the Cabbalists were to produce yet another important religious mystic — Israel Ben Eliezer — born in Eastern Europe. The "Baal Shem Tov", or Master of the Good Name as he became known, was the founder of Hassidism — a religious movement which countered the confining and formalised religious practice of the time with a more open and joyful approach to Judaism. It is a movement which continues to attract tens of thousands of observant Jews today — and which only recently saw the Hassidic followers of the famed Lubavitch Rabbi of New York urging Jews in Israel to "prepare for the coming of the messiah".

Tishby's greatness lay in his ability to research the writings and medieval texts on these subjects and then to interpret and present them to modern students in a language they could easily understand. Isaiah Tishby was born in Hungary and arrived in Palestine in 1933. He began studying at the Hebrew University the following year while completing his necessary high school qualifications at the same time. He studied Jewish philosophy, Cabbala, Hebrew literature and the Bible and received a PhD in 1943 for his doctoral thesis on the Cabbala.

He excelled in providing intellectual explanations and modern translations of medieval texts in Hebrew and Aramaic, and was the first scholar, in the early 1940s, to edit and publish a work on the writings of the sixteenth century Lurianic Cabbala of Safed.

Tishby was appointed a senior lecturer at the Hebrew University in 1951 and rose to the rank of full professor of Jewish mysticism and ethical literature in 1959. Scholars consider his greatest contribution to be his three volume work *Mishmar HaZohar* (The Wisdom of the Zohar) which has been translated into English and published by the Littman Library of the Oxford University Press. Another outstanding achievement was his almost booklength entry, in the *Hebrew Encyclopedia*, on the major trends of Hassidic thought.

In 1979 Tishby received the prestigious Israel Prize for Jewish Studies. He was the recipient of many other awards for his research and writings — the last being the Gershom Scholem memorial prize of the Israel National Academy a month ago.

He was a visiting professor at several American universities and a visiting fellow at the Oxford Centre for post-graduate Hebrew studies. Isaiah Tishby is survived by his wife Esther and two sons.

LORD EVANS OF CLAUGHTON

Lord Evans of Claughton, Liberal Democrat spokesman on local government and housing in the House of Lords, died on March 22 aged 64. He was born on February 9, 1928.

"GRIFF" Evans was a stabilising force in Liberal politics throughout more than 30 years of constant change. His party's present strength and aspirations may be credited in no small measure to his influence. Evans was the archetypal party manager. He ran John Pardo's campaign in the mid Seventies in the contest for the party's vacant leadership — chiefly because of Pardo's deep grass-roots pedigree. But in 1977, as party president, he rallied behind the victorious David Steel and did much to restore unity and morale.

At the same time he neither evaded nor avoided controversy. It was he who, before the 1978 Southampton assembly, advised Jeremy Thorpe, then facing criminal charges, not to attend — thereby offending many loyal Liberals. The ousted leader turned up all the same, but Evans was later acknowledged to have been right.

He had never been an admirer of Thorpe's policies. As a young man, at one time president of the Young Liberals, Evans had been a vigorous critic of the leadership. But he was to become its most reliable lieutenant, defending it against left-wing unilateralists.

Evans's strength lay in his pragmatism and shrewdness. He understood that at local and national levels, a party had to win over the electorate. At the same time, while having little in common with the "woolly-hatted brigade" of the young Liberals, he valued their enthusiasm and industry and resisted those who wanted to expel them.

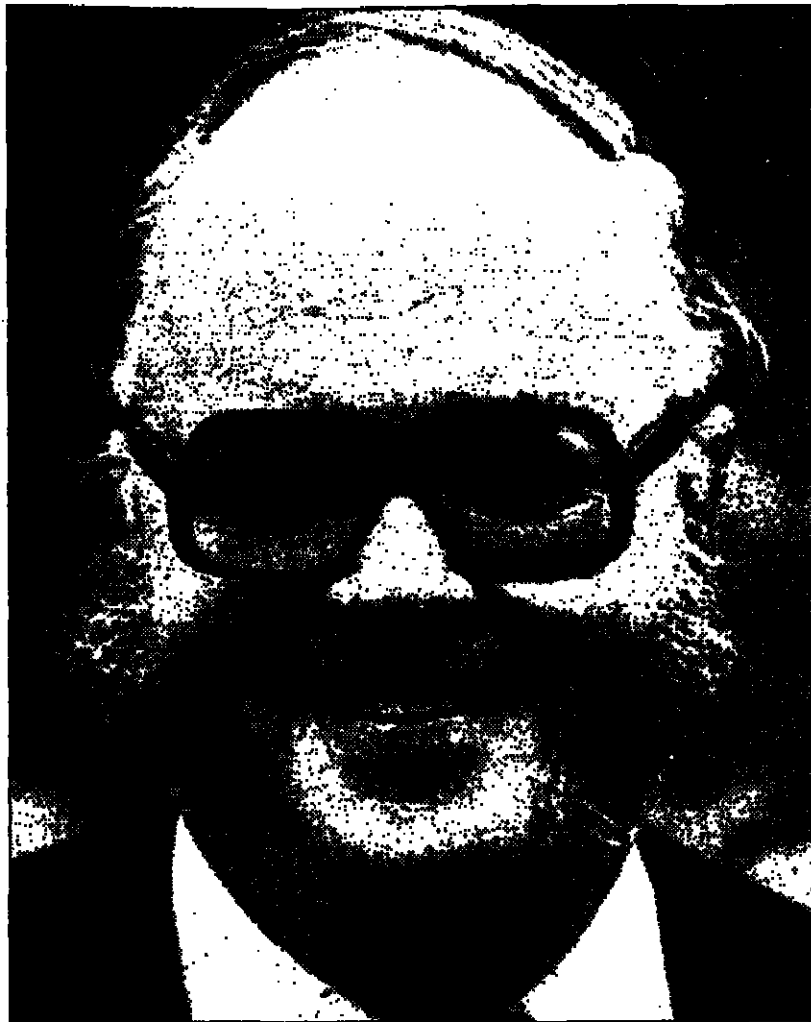
He would dearly have loved to be a Liberal MP. Three times he tried, once for his native Birkenhead and twice for Wallasey — where he stood against the Conservative minister Ernest Marples. In the end, like other frustrated leading Liberals, he settled for local government and the Lords.

He relished the rational debating in the latter, which he entered as a life peer in 1978. An articulate lawyer, and by that time extremely well versed in local politics, he proved a formidable opponent of both main parties. Had he belonged to either one of them himself, he would almost certainly have become an MP and won an important position on the front benches.

But Griff Evans's pragmatism was stiffened by principle and he could never have joined another party. He was an offspring of two Welsh Liberal families, though his mother, a graduate of Aberystwyth, was an Anglican, while his Angley father's family backed Lloyd George. Griff could boast that his father really did know Lloyd George.

Evans senior, a builder, had fought as a major in the Royal Welch Fusiliers on the Somme.

Although himself born in Birkenhead,



young Griff was very much a Welshman. He learned to speak Welsh before English as a child and still used it whenever he crossed into Welsh Wales.

He was educated at Birkenhead school, then Friars School, Bangor — where he was evacuated during the war — and was offered a university place at Oxford. He chose instead, however, to go to Liverpool where he graduated in law and, after two years as an RAF pilot officer, built up a successful solicitor's practice on Merseyside.

Merseyside was to become his Liberal fiefdom, from the day in 1957 when he astounded local Tories by winning a seat on Birkenhead borough council. He remained a member for 17 years, going on to raise the Liberal banner on Wirral borough council (1973-78) and Merseyside county council (1973-81).

Alongside his local government activities, he steadily advanced in the party hierarchy. He was secretary of the Lancashire, Cheshire and Northwest Liberal Federation, 1956-60, chairman of the National League of Young Liberals 1960-61, chairman of the party's national executive 1965-68, of the assembly committee 1971-74, the general election committee 1977-79 and Liberal presi-

dent 1977-78. He acted as a consulting engineer on the forging of the Lib-Lab pact of 1977-78, although his experience of militant socialism in Liverpool, made him more cautious than some of his southern colleagues. He also supported the alliance with David Owen's Social Democrats in 1987, despite his reservations about Owen's abrasiveness.

He was made a deputy lieutenant of Merseyside and a member of the court of Liverpool University while his many other interests included being a director of Granada Television and chairman of Marcher Sound independent radio in North Wales. He was also much in demand on Merseyside as a witty after dinner speaker.

He loved cricket and Welsh rugby — but resigned from the presidency of one rugby club in Wales when it accepted an invitation to tour South Africa. On the day before he died he was able to watch Wales on television regain a little of its former glory at Cardiff Arms Park. After his death it was the Welsh dragon which was flying at half-mast on the flagstaff outside his home.

Lord Evans is survived by his wife, Moira, and by their son and three daughters.

ARTHUR LEES

Arthur Lees, British Ryder Cup golfer four times between 1947 and 1953, died in Windsor yesterday aged 84. He was born in Sheffield on February 21, 1908.

PROFESSIONAL golf, indeed the game as a whole, has lost one of its richest characters with the death of Arthur Lees. Lees played in four Ryder Cup matches soon after the war. It was an era when the United States made a habit of overpowering any British team, but Lees emerged with his head high. He scored four points out of eight and recorded Britain's only two victories at Pinehurst, North Carolina, in 1951. He was twice sixth in the Open championship, in 1947 and again two years later.

In 1950 he finished second to Match-Play champion Dai Rees in the year's order of merit and in 1956, while suffering from a sprained left thumb, he shattered the course record at Stoneham, Southampton, with 65 in the southern qualifying section of the Match-Play championship, winning the southern professional championship with 135 for 36 holes.

A burly, free-hitting golfer with an unspectacular method, typical of a natural player, Lees believed in maximum results rather than theatrical showmanship. His successes were built upon his exceptional ability with his irons and, on his day, he was a phenomenal putter. Lees began his golfing career as a boy caddy at Lees Hall, Sheffield, where, at the age of 14 in 1923, he came under the wing of J. H. Atkinson. He developed rap-



idly and after a seven year apprenticeship took an appointment at Marlenbad, Czechoslovakia. From there he returned to Sheffield and from the Dore and Todley club became a golf world personality. He was a late choice for the 1947 Ryder Cup team but two years later was an automatic selection. Lees's reputation ripened in later years when his Yorkshire accent remained undiluted by close proximity to fashionable Sunningdale,

where he was the club professional from 1949 to 1977. "Nothing rubbed off on him", said Keith Almond, Sunningdale's secretary until last year. "And he was honoured for it."

He underwent an operation for cancer of the bladder 15 years ago and his life was in the balance, but an indomitable will carried him through and he survived several later crises.

Lees was an accomplished raconteur and if some of his

stories seemed too tall at the time his exact repetition of them down to the last detail, year after year, testified to their authenticity. He seemed able to recall every golf shot he had ever played. He was never short of listeners as he held court in the Sunningdale club house or out on one of the two courses.

He was a wily opponent right up to 1989, when at last he had to put his clubs away. Even with a shortened swing he was something of a wizard around Sunningdale and was never known to refuse a bet.

A club stalwart remembered yesterday an occasion when Lees gave a four up start to Major Dolt-Henderson, an American amateur recently returned from a victory on the continent. All betting save for one showed Lees was on the American. Lees then played the first nine holes of the Old course in 27 strokes and reached the turn three up. It was a bookies' bonanza.

When Lees joined Sunningdale soon after the war the club was in trouble, seriously short of members, whereupon Lees, a man very much in the Fred Trueman, Harvey Smith mould, became a self-appointed recruiting agent. Some of his initiatives, were not, perhaps, typical of Sunningdale, as we now know it, but at least they helped the club to recover from the ravages of hostilities. He was much sought after as a coach, especially by good golfers. Those who enlisted his help included Dai Rees and Norman Von Nida, the eminent Australian.

Lees, a widower, is survived by his son.

GODFREY GOMPERTZ

Godfrey Gompertz, CBE, ceramics collector, died on March 12 aged 88. He was born on March 11, 1904.

GODFREY Gompertz, generally known as "G", was largely responsible for introducing the beauty and quality of Korean ceramics to a Western audience. Known and loved for many years by Japanese scholars and collectors, going back to masters of the sea ceremony who saw the sympathy between the simple style of their art and that of

the Korean pottery, they had only been revealed to the West in some of the work of Honey of the V&A until Gompertz published his *Korean Celadon* in 1963, and various exhibitions had aroused the interest of the public.

A connoisseur of the form and "feel" of a pot, Gompertz also met the highest standards of scholarship. *Chinese Celadon Ware* had been published in 1958 and a new edition came out in 1980. After *Koryo Celadon* came both *Korean Pottery & Porcelain of the Yi Period* and *Celadon Wares* in 1968. He also joined with Dr Kim Cheon in 1961 in *The Ceramic Art of Korea*. Gompertz was born in Calcutta in 1904 of a family that served in India continuously from 1819 to 1946. After Bedford School he went to Sandhurst in 1922, but finding himself unsuited to the military life he joined Asiatic Petroleum and was posted to Japan. From there he was transferred to Korea, then under Japanese occupation.

He had bought his first pot in 1940, but the post-war years in Japan gave him the opportunity to begin to build up the collection which he and his late wife, Elizabeth, donated to the Fitzwilliam Museum. This became the centrepiece of the Korean Gallery which was opened in 1990 after a substantial donation from the Hyun Dae Corp. His CBE came in 1981.

Godfrey Gompertz is survived by his two sons.

APPRECIATIONS

Lt Cdr Peter Kemp



nerve centre of the whole war at sea". An inspired selection.

Captain F. V. Harrison.

YOUR admirable obituary of Lieutenant Commander Peter Kemp (March 20) refers briefly to his wartime service in the Naval Intelligence Division.

He was, in fact, in charge of W/T Direction Finding in the Operational Intelligence Centre (OIC), an invaluable service, particularly before the Ultra material became available and, later, when it was vital to locate the source of an enemy transmission immediately, before the message could be broken.

An outstanding example was his contribution to the *Bismark* chase, and on many occasions his D/F plot led to diversions of convoys, enabling them to avoid gathering U-boat "Wolf Packs". On these occasions, of course, he worked in conjunction with Roger Winn (the late Lord Justice Winn) in the U-boat tracking room — a formidable combination!

Peter's final contribution to the OIC was when he gave the address at the memorial service of Vice-Admiral Sir Norman Denning, who, as a Paymaster Lieutenant Commander and Commander had been the founder and mainstay of the OIC, described by Cornelli Barnett in his recent book (*Engage the Enemy More Closely*) as "the collective brain and

THE Royal United Service Institute was fortunate in having Peter Kemp, as editor of the *RUSI Journal* from 1958 to 1968. He brought to this task, as to all his literary work, integrity, style, knowledge, wisdom, dedication — and wit. In making the transition from professional naval officer to professional writer he showed that, without prejudice to his enthusiasm for matters marine, he had a balanced approach to the contribution of all three services in the nation's defence. He set a standard which has been hard to maintain.

Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch

Prof Derek Lomax



the Council of Europe's committee of experts on the Camino de Santiago from 1987 until its demise in 1989. The field of pilgrimage studies in this country can ill afford to lose someone of his calibre, but we and colleagues all over Europe will always be grateful for his contributions.

Patricia Quaife

MAY I add to your excellent obituary of Professor Derek Lomax (March 20). Professor Lomax was a valued member of the Confraternity of Saint James, a charity which promotes the pilgrim routes to Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain, and chaired its research working party at the University of Birmingham for the past four years. His hospitality on these occasions — he personally provided lunch for up to 15 people — his friendliness and quiet humour endeared him to specialists and non-specialist alike. The Confraternity was privileged to publish his paper on the Order of Santiago in 1990 and the address he gave on early English pilgrims to Santiago at its European conference held at Hengrave Hall two years ago. Derek Lomax also served as the British representative on

LIVES REMEMBERED

A COLLECTION of 180 obituaries from the 900 or so published on this page during 1991 has been produced in book form, edited by David Heaton and John Higgins, under the title *Lives Remembered*. The bishops, judges and peers who traditionally occupied the obituary columns now mingle with businessmen, TV stars and sportsmen. The infamous may occasionally rub shoulders with the famous — all walks and conditions of life are represented.

Lives Remembered, fully illustrated and with a foreword by Lord Annan, is available at £19.95 from the Bletchbury Press, 10, Station Road, Pangbourne, Berks. RG8 7AN (Tel. 0235 850110. Fax 0734 843336).

March 27 ON THIS DAY 1902

Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902), financier, statesman and imperialist died at Milnerton, Cape Colony on March 26. His name given to the country which he developed has now vanished from the map of Africa — it lives on in his foundation of Oxford scholarships. His grave, hewn in rock in the Matopos hills, carries the simple inscription — Rhodes. His last words are said to have been "So little done, so much to do": another version is the prosaic "Turn me over, Jack."

RHODES

A great personality has passed away. As less than fifty years of age Cecil Rhodes is dead; but in his comparatively short span of life he has brought to a successful issue more of active achievement than is often brought to a successful issue by those who live longer. He has seen, as few men have seen, the fulfilment of his own early dreams. He has carried the British flag over a territory nearly as great in extent as another British India. He has done more than any single contemporary to place before the imagination of his countrymen a clear conception of the Imperial destinies of our race and, with all the faults which cannot be denied, with all the errors which have marred his noblest work, he stands an heroic figure round which the traditions of Imperial history will cling.

Mr Rhodes has met the fate which attends great empire-builders: on the one hand they are enthusiastically admired and applauded, on the other they are stones of stumbling, they provoke a degree of repugnance, sometimes of hatred, in exact proportion to the size of their achievements. We know how Clive was reviled, and with what persistence Warren Hastings was pursued. We remember how rancorously the memory of Pitt was attacked,

so that neither in the House of Commons nor in the Common Council of the City of London was it agreed, without the bluest debate, to render him the common posthumous honours which are voted as a matter of course to less exceptional statesmen. To be a great man in such conditions as those which surrounded Cecil Rhodes is to be certain to arouse passions in friends and opponents which do not quickly subside. Acclaimed by the majority of his contemporaries and by British opinion all over the world, Mr Rhodes was detested by Boers and pro-Boers.

In Mr Rhodes's career were strangely mingled the parts of the business man and of the statesman. Diamonds and gold made him, between 1880 and 1895, a millionaire, but all the time, though he displayed the same qualities in organizing these great new industries as he showed in political combinations, they occupied but a small part of his mind. The inner chambers of his brain were revolving schemes far greater than those for amalgamating diamond mines or taking up "claims" in the goldfields. It was on the north that his eye was fixed; his perpetual meditation was how to extend British power and civilization to the north — to the Zambezi, to the Lakes, to Egypt. The dawn of Mahaba was 1881. The event which shocked and daunted other Englishmen in South Africa aroused Mr Rhodes to action. He feared the tendency of the Transvaal to expand its borders and to effect the limitation of British settlement to the territory lying between the Orange River and the sea. To counteract this tendency was the first step towards realizing his dreams of northern expansion. Almost single-handed he fought his fight. He pleaded with the Cape Colony the value of the trade roads. He carried his own operations by means of the British South Africa Company to the Zambezi, and beyond the Zambezi to the Lakes.

ship armour



Battle over TV le
eclipses campaign

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● INFOTECH TIMES 32,33
● SPORT 34-38

THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY MARCH 27 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

AU REVOIR?

Time may be running out for Edith Cresson and the protectionist industrial policies of France's socialist government after more than a decade
Page 23

RIGHT BITE

From Burger King to Buckingham Palace, Booker ensures that plates are never empty. But the recession is changing eating habits
Page 21

SHOWING OFF

Spain is using Expo in Seville and the Olympics in Barcelona to show off what it has achieved since Franco died in 1975
Focus, pages 27-31

TOMORROW

PROFILE



John Grieve, senior partner at Freshfields, the law firm, runs 40 miles a week and looks the part. Despite his success he never travels first class

CALL FOR HELP

Customer complaints are swamping financial ombudsmen who need extra staff to cope with appeals for a fair deal

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7260 (-0.0027)
German mark
2.8600 (+0.0004)
Exchange index
90.1 (same)
Bank of England official
close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1938.3 (+8.4)
FT-SE 100
2472.2 (+7.3)
New York Dow Jones
3268.56 (+9.17)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
19865.49 (-341.29)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10 1/2%
3-month interbank 10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/2%
Federal Funds 4 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 4.00-3.98%
30-year bonds 10 1/2%-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.7224 £: \$1.7220
DM: £2.8626 DM: £1.8615
Sfr: £1.5128 Sfr: £1.5150
FF: £5.8365 FF: £5.8365
Yen: £230.71 Yen: £133.90
Index: 90.1 Index: 90.1
ECU: £0.714166 ECU: £0.714166
ECU: £1.40024 ECU: £1.40024

GOLD

London: AM \$340.75 PM \$340.40
close \$340.80-341.30 (£197.40-197.90)
New York:
Comex \$340.85-341.35

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) ... \$18.00 bbl (\$17.90)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.3 February (1987-100)
* Denotes midday trading price

1X

Rowland personally sets up cash deal with Tripoli state firm

Libya pays £177m for Lonrho hotel stake

By COLIN CAMPBELL

ROLAND "Tiny" Rowland, the 74-year-old chief executive of Lonrho, personally negotiated the £177.5 million cash deal with the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company (Lafico) that gives Colonel Gaddafi's government a third stake in five British hotels under the Metropole Hotels (Holdings) banner, shareholders heard yesterday.

The Lonrho-Libya connection was announced as the UN Security Council was considering sanctions against Libya over the Lockerbie bombing, and made public only hours ahead of Lonrho's annual meeting.

René Leclezio, Lonrho's chairman, and in one of many passionate defences of Mr Rowland's abilities and age, said the deal was "Mr Rowland's personal achievement". The chairman told a shareholder: "I do not know your age. But I doubt if you could have followed Mr Rowland through the negotiations." Paul Spicer, a deputy chairman, said: "We did not plan the timing for the day of the UN debate. We have been in talks for weeks. We will not say who initiated it. It was a commercial deal. We have no political aspirations. Deals do just come together and happen in Africa."

Mr Spicer said the £177.5 million arrived in the bank late on Wednesday, and a letter of confirmation from a clearing bank was received yesterday morning.

Lafico acquires a third share of an enlarged capital in a hotel chain owning hotels in London, Birmingham, Brighton and Blackpool, and whose book value of net assets at the end of September totalled £393 million. Lafico has the right to appoint two out of eight of Metropole's directors. There are limited rights concerning "specified major

matters" affecting Metropole. Lonrho emphasised that Metropole will continue to be managed by its directors and employees, and "ownership and control still ultimately rests in Lonrho". Metropole, totally owned by Lonrho, is issuing new shares for the arrangement with Lafico, which therefore implies a total valuation on Metropole of £570.5 million. Lafico thus pays £177.5 million for a third stake valued at £190.2 million.

Some City analysts said they were "unimpressed" with the Libyan connection, but conceded that "cash is cash", and Lonrho needs all the help it can get. "Debt is Lonrho's Achilles heel," one said.

Interest savings by Metropole will eventually work through to Lonrho. However, the statement makes clear that the £177.5 million cash injection will be "ring fenced", and will be used to help reduce Metropole's borrowings.

Lonrho's net debt was £1.095 billion at the end of September, and after asset sales made since then, including a half share in a German freight company, analysts had assumed net debt had fallen to £750 million. The stock market was, therefore, unsettled yesterday when Mr Leclezio gave a qualified answer that Lonrho's net debt would now be reduced to £850 million — implying there had, since year-end, been a £100 million cash outflow. Mr Spicer said that in the past six weeks Lonrho had secured commitments, through asset sales, that meant £400 million "is coming in, one way or another", and reiterated that gearing would fall from 70 per cent to around 55 per cent. Lonrho shares rose 5p to 108p, only to fall to 95p.

Comment, page 23



Happy with the personal touch: Tiny Rowland did the deal yesterday to sell an interest to the Libyans

Tiny marches to the millennium

THE Barbican Hall does not have the luxurious ambience of the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, but its rafters rang with praise for Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive (Colin Campbell writes).

Mr Rowland, like the Johnny Walker man, is going marching on into the next millennium. René (Mr Sugar) Leclezio, the chairman, told the gathering of Tiny's faithful shareholders.

One fan said he did not want Mr Rowland, who is 74, to retire. "Tiny is a Big Name, not like Mr Maxwell," he said, though he did want to know "the cost of running Mr Rowland's jet". Was it really £900,000?

"If you accept Tiny, then you accept the jet," Mr Leclezio replied. That was just one of countless lines of praise. A former Mayoress of

Poole, Mrs Edna Adams, said how much she hated the criticism that had been levelled against Lonrho and Mr Rowland.

"It is nonsense to say he is too old. He is our one hope of survival. Tiny is the jewel in the crown," Mrs Adams managed to get in over the hand microphone before those in the gallery started to shout: "Get on with a question."

Yesterday's annual meeting was pre-empted by City anger in the wake of 1991's pre-tax profits setback and the cut dividend. However, though there was the odd barbed comment from individual shareholders, no collective City voice emerged.

It was the first annual meeting with Mr Leclezio in the chair, after years of Sir Edward du Cann. Mr Sugar admitted he was no par-

mentarian. He has a Maurice Chevalier voice, and might as well have sung the Mary Poppins ditty "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down".

The curtain-raiser was a 37-minute film on Lonrho's sugar estates that included the immortal line: "It has been a year of celebrations at Lonrho estates."

Had the concert hall lights not been dimmed, and had the 1991 profit and loss account been on every shareholder's lap, there might have been booing.

Mr Leclezio, however, having fired another broadside at the press for a "persistent and misleading campaign of hysteria" after the results announcement, raised broad smiles when he said that in France there was an old Arab saying: *Les chazals aboient, la caravane passe* ("Let the jackals bark, the caravan carries on"). At one point, Mr Rowland himself was challenged to speak. "Will Mr Rowland stand up and tell us..." The silver head of Mr Rowland had already started to shake "no" before the questioner had finished. René came to the rescue. "Tiny does not talk," he said. "He acts. And you have seen his act!"

Mr Rowland, we were told yesterday, had personally achieved the deal with the Libyans, and had done many great and good works for Lonrho.

"At long last, and I am pleased to tell you largely due to the efforts of our chief executive, it seems almost certain that peace will be achieved in Mozambique in the next few months."

Tiny said not a word during the 75-minute meeting. But then he never has.

Labour will hit foreign firms

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

FOREIGN companies and their foreign employees would be among the hardest hit by Labour's tax plans, according to an analysis by Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the financial consultant.

Foreigners are badly hit because they tend to earn high incomes. Labour will not only levy higher taxes and national insurance (NI) on total income, but will also continue with not allowing special treatment.

Japanese and Koreans, who, unlike Americans, do not have reciprocal agreements with Britain on NI, would be hit hard. Not only would they pay NI on total salary, but are unlikely ever to have a British pension.

Also, the companies tend to negotiate with these employees on an after-tax basis. If taxes rise, the company pays. They are then taxed on the amount by which they compensate employees for higher taxes, thus paying tax on tax. But over 13 years of Tory government, Britain has lost its tax attraction for foreigners as special treatment was removed, though this was offset by top rate cuts.

Under Labour, foreigners would not only suffer higher taxes but also continuation of this regime. Continental countries have generous tax regimes for foreigners, via allowances or reduction in amount of taxable income.

Foreigners had the best tax treatment under the last Labour government. One earning £100,000 would retain 51 per cent under John Smith. But under Denis Healey, he would have kept 82 per cent in 1979 via legal tax loopholes.

In 1979, a foreigner was liable for tax on 50 per cent of income. The special allowance, was cut from 50 to 25 per cent in 1987 and ended in 1989. Thus, a single earner on £80,000 paid tax and NI of £16,213 in 1986/7, £27,584 in 1987/89, £28,763 today, but £37,942 under Labour. John Andrews, head of tax at Coopers Deloitte, said this could be solved by reintroducing special treatment.

Health clash, page 1
Election 92, pages 7-11
An incurable case, page 14
Diary, page 14
Leading article
and letters, page 15
L&T section, pages 4 and 5

Redland wins Steetley

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE last big outstanding takeover bid in the City came to a close yesterday afternoon with Redland claiming victory at the end of its 115-day battle for Steetley, its rival building materials group.

The £513 million offer went unconditional when Redland announced that it had received acceptances for 60 per cent of Steetley's shares by the 1 pm deadline. Redland had offered 87 shares for every 100 Steetley shares or a 365p cash alternative.

Although the institutions ultimately strongly backed the Redland bid, the outcome of the battle was far from clear until as late as Wednesday morning when Redland had received only 2 per cent acceptances and had made no market purchases of Steetley's shares. Sir Colin Cor-

ness, the chairman of Redland, said: "I am delighted that we have had a successful outcome after such a long offer period. We are committed to increasing shareholder value through implementing our merger plans — I am confident that our management can deliver the benefits. I look forward to welcoming the Steetley shareholders and employees as they join the enlarged Redland group."

The merger will create Britain's largest building products group and one of the top three aggregate producers in the world, with a turnover of more than £2 billion. About 70 per cent of sales will be overseas.

Shareholders seem to have been swayed by the high multiple offered by Redland during the depths of a prolonged

recession in the construction industry and by the promise from Redland that the integration of the two businesses will yield £13 million of cost savings. Steetley's case was not helped by a series of setbacks to its defence, including the blocking of a proposed joint venture with Tarmac.

Officially, the Steetley board was advising shareholders "to take no further action" until a formal recommendation has been made.

However, the preparations for an orderly handover have been begun by the Steetley team. "This was in no way the result Redland expected," one Steetley adviser said. "They were expecting to walk this and they haven't."

Comment, page 23

Boost in sales lifts Wellcome

STRONG growth in the volume of sales of Zovirax, the herpes drug and Retrovir, the anti-Aids treatment, helped Wellcome boost pre-tax profits by 35 per cent to £345 million in the half year to February 29. Interim dividend rises a third to 4p from earnings up 33 per cent to 17.5p per share.

Growth of some 13 per cent in the volume of drug sales helped lift sales by 22 per cent to £891 million. Research and development spending increased by 23 per cent to £127 million.

Wellcome Trust plans to sell much of its 74 per cent holding this summer. Wellcome shares rose 13p to 1.012p.

Tempus, page 22

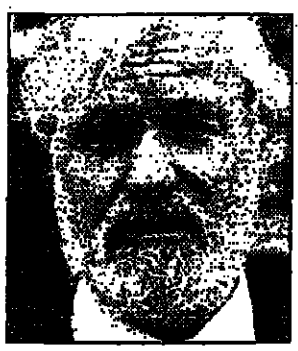
Chelsea scores against landlord

By MATTHEW BOND

THE Roker roar might have put paid to Chelsea Football Club's FA Cup ambitions, but Ken Bates, Chelsea's indefatigable chairman, still hopes for a big win to round off the season.

Yesterday, he moved a step closer to it by buying a 27 per cent stake in Cabra Estates, the quoted property company that owns Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground and wants the club to pay £23.8 million for the freehold or face eviction by the end of the season.

Like the goal that ensured Chelsea's FA Cup exit, Mr Bates left his move until the 90th minute. His purchase of 26 million Cabra shares from Dr Ashraf Marwan, the



Bates: 27 per cent stake Egyptian financier, was made on the day originally fixed for Chelsea to come up with the £23.8 million.

In the event, Mr Bates produced rather less than that, but he used it with considerable effect, not least on

Cabra's share price. Before the deal was announced, the shares were worth 7p each, valuing Dr Marwan's stake at £1.8 million. Afterwards, a 2p rise indicated a value of £2.3 million. However, it is believed that Dr Marwan might have received close to £3 million.

The shares have not been bought by Chelsea but by Vanbrugh, a shell company. However, there was frantic activity at Stamford Bridge yesterday, ahead of today's deadline for transfers. Three players were hastily dispatched in what looked like a fund-raising exercise.

Chelsea appeared to have raised about £1.2 million by loaning Jason Cundy to Tottenham Hotspur and by sell-

ing Clive Allen to West Ham for £275,000 and Kevin Wilson to Notts County for £200,000.

Having secured the Cabra stake, Mr Bates promptly called for an extraordinary meeting, at which he will seek the removal of John Duggan, chairman, and Andrew Mackay, MP for Berkshire East and a Cabra director.

Mr Duggan declared himself puzzled by Mr Bates's move. He said that even if Cabra accepted Vanbrugh's call for seats on the board, conflict of interest would prevent Mr Bates voting on any matter relating to Chelsea. Cabra directors meet today to discuss the proposals.

Transfer report, page 38

Airline of the Year 1992.

In addition to winning the Airline of the Year award for the second year running, we were also voted Best Transatlantic Airline, Best Business Class, Best Long-Haul Airline, Best Inflight Entertainment, Best Airline Ground and Check-in Staff, and Best Food by the readers of Executive Travel Magazine.

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Morgan Grenfell profits increase

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MORGAN Grenfell, the London merchant banking subsidiary of Deutsche Bank, increased pre-tax profits by 21 per cent to £56.5 million in 1991 — a year when it returned to the top of the mergers and acquisitions league table.

John Craven, Morgan's chairman, confirmed that the bank is planning to merge its futures and options business with its parent. This will mean that Morgan and Deutsche will trade as one team on Liffe. But the rest of the bank's operations would remain independent.

During the year, Morgan benefited from contributions from two of its newest subsidiaries, development capital and Third World debt trading. Development capital has now raised funds of £175 million and organised several management buy-outs, including Taunton Cider and Bristow Helicopters.

Michael Dobbs, chief executive, said that the banking division remains Morgan's most profitable operation, despite some bad debt provisions. The bank is increasing its lending operations.

The corporate finance business worked on 11 public takeovers in Britain last year, worth £2.4 billion, putting it top of several league tables. Mr Dobbs said that 60 per cent of transactions the bank advised on were cross-border, compared with only 16 per cent in 1987. These included several prominent German clients, such as Continental in its defence against Pirelli and RWE-DEA's \$1.2 billion takeover of Vista Chemical in America.

Asset management, Morgan's other main business, provided around one quarter of the profits, growing by 21 per cent to £16.2 billion. During the year Morgan also continued its retreat from the equity markets by transferring C.I. Lawrence, its American research-based broker, to Deutsche. Mr Craven said that Morgan intended to keep its profitable equities business in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Capitalised interest leaves Slough Estates ahead

By MATTHEW BOND

SLOUGH Estates, Britain's fourth biggest property company, reports pre-tax profits of £31.6 million for 1991, but only after adding £52.3 million of interest charges to the balance sheet value of developments still in the course of construction.

The amount of interest "capitalised" in this way was above the expectations of analysts, who have kept the company under close scrutiny since the departure of Graeme Elliot, Slough's vice-chairman, a fortnight ago. With property values still under pressure, the practice of capitalising interest is viewed with mounting concern.

Accounting regulations require developments to be held in the balance sheet at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Judging how much interest can be safely added to the cost of a development can be difficult at a time when property values are falling.

Having added £52.3 million of interest to the balance sheet, only £21.4 million of Slough's total interest bill of £79.7 million passed through the profit and loss account, enabling the company to report a 40 per cent increase in pre-tax profits and earnings per share of 8p, which partially covers the total dividend of 11.55p (11.35p).

Paying a maintained final dividend of 7.15p required a £10.1 million transfer from reserves, the second year running a transfer has been required.

Had Slough taken all its interest through the profit and loss account, pre-tax losses would have been around £20 million.

Yesterday's pre-tax profit of £31.6 million was struck after £36.7 million of exceptional provisions. Net borrowings of £739 million give a gearing of 67 per cent. Revaluation of Slough's £1.7 billion investment portfolio produced a £92.5 million deficit, contributing to an 11.7 per cent fall in net assets per share from 375p to 331p. However, within that fall there were some encouraging signs. The value of the core industrial portfolio in Britain actually rose by 6.3 per cent, although, with office values falling 19.3 per cent and development land falling 17.2 per cent, the net decline in the UK portfolio was 2.3 per cent.

Overseas, the French and German portfolios rose in value, by 6.7 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. But there was a huge decline in the Australian portfolio of 31.1 per cent. Collectively, the group's overseas investments contributed £63.9 million towards the £92.5 million deficit.

Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman, said: "Last year was another difficult year for the property investment and development sector, but despite adverse market conditions, the group's core portfolio continued to produce a satisfactory result."



Split up: Graeme Elliot and Sir Nigel Mobbs

Decline in demand takes toll on APV

By OUR CITY STAFF

A DECLINE in worldwide demand and tighter net margins took their toll on profits at APV, the food processing equipment maker.

Pre-tax profits fell 23.4 per cent to £30.8 million in the year to end-December, on turnover down 5.8 per cent to £874.4 million.

Sales to customers outside the United Kingdom account for more than 80 per cent of the group's turnover. APV

said that demand was frustrated by orders for food and drinks processing machinery from Russia and eastern Europe being held back by difficulties in organising financing.

Sir Peter Cazalet, the chairman, said that the depressed worldwide economic environment had discouraged many of APV's customers from undertaking major capital investments. "While the food and beverage sector is resilient, in the economic environ-

ment which prevailed there was a tendency to defer capital expenditure."

Neil French, finance director, said that APV's order intake for the second half of 1991 did not repeat the sharp decline experienced in 1990, with 1991's full year order intake 5 per cent higher than 1990. The order book for 1992 is 15 per cent above the level for the previous year.

Operating profits from the dry food division fell to £10.9 million (£19.2 million), on

turnover down to £278.5 million (£340.7 million). The decline in profits was exacerbated by a £3 million exceptional charge, mainly relating to restructuring and redundancy costs. Closure and restructuring costs led to an extraordinary debit of £3.1 million.

The final dividend is maintained at 3.4p, giving shareholders an unchanged total of 5.4p for the year. Earnings dropped from 9p a share to 6.9p. The shares fell 8p to 108p.

Takings at Morrison reach new record

By PHILIP PANGALOS

GROSS takings at Morrison Supermarkets have broken through the £1 billion mark for the first time.

The Bradford-based supermarket group saw pre-tax profits advance by 24.6 per cent to £62.6 million in the year to February 1, on sales ahead 22.9 per cent to £1.12 billion.

The figures, excluding new stores, showed takings ahead 7.8 per cent. Average sales per square foot, excluding petrol and VAT, rose 7.4 per cent to £11.60 per week.

Martin Ackroyd, Morrison's finance director, said the group benefited from its decision to absorb last year's increase in VAT on all of its grocery and non-food items until the end of last year.

"We believe supermarket retailing is still a lot to do with price," Mr Ackroyd said. Low prices are a major influence in getting people into the stores, he added.

Four new stores were opened during the period, bringing the total number to 53. The group has opened two new stores in 1992, with a total of 59 stores expected to be operational by the end of the year. The sales area increased by about 10 per cent.

Net interest payments were reduced from £4.87 million to £3.78 million. Gearing, aided by the proceeds from last November's £97.5 million rights issue, stood at about 12 per cent at the year-end, against 60 per cent previously. Profits on land sales led to an exceptional gain of £993,000. Shareholders will receive an increased final dividend of 1.6p (1.1p) giving an improved total of 2p for the year, against 1.55p previously, beating the 1.9p total forecast at the time of the rights issue.

Earnings rose from 16.09p a share to 19.76p, with fully diluted earnings accelerating 21.8 per cent to 18.49p. Paul Smiddy, at Kleinwort Benson, forecasts current year pre-tax profits of £83 million, giving fully diluted earnings of 21.5p. The shares advanced 12p to 325p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Cannon Street dives to a loss of £34.9m

CANNON Street Investments, the mini conglomerate, dived to a loss of £34.9 million last year and has abandoned its final dividend after heavy asset write-downs and interest costs. The group intends to continue its disposal programme to reduce debt, and is thought to be looking for a buyer for its hotel division, which includes Craigendarroch, the Scottish timeshare park. CSI's losses were caused by a £34.5 million exceptional write-down on its hotels, building materials business, fork lift truck distributor and double glazing division. Operating profit slumped 60 per cent to £11.1 million as almost all of the company's 40 operating subsidiaries were hit by the recession. Since the end of the year the group's debts have fallen by more than half to £45.3 million, thanks to the flotation of Avonside, the house builder, and the sale of most of the group's stake in Bezacom, the telephone distributor. The group has now appointed Tom Long, a former BAT director, as chairman.

Kynoch calls for cash

G & G KYNOC, which recently moved from textiles to health care, is making a two-for-three rights issue, at 36p a share, to raise £2.6 million. The proceeds will fund the acquisition of Astec Environmental Systems, which makes fume cupboards, and certain assets of Peteric, a manufacturer of biological safety cabinets. Kynoch reported pre-tax profits of £851,000 in the 16 months to December 31, against a loss of £983,000 in the previous 12-month period. Turnover, boosted by acquisition, was £17.9 million (£4.02 million). Again, there is no dividend.

Exports boost Jeyes

A SIXTY per cent growth in exports, mainly to the Far East, helped Jeyes Group, the maker of cleaning and hygiene products, to a 17 per cent rise in full year profits. Pre-tax profits advanced to £4.18 million in the year to end-December and turnover rose by 19 per cent to £61.8 million. The final dividend is raised to 3.8p (3.2p), giving a total of 6.4p for the year, against 5.4p previously. Earnings climb from 12.4p a share to 19.6p. Shares firmed 7p to 438p. Jeyes is acquiring two brands of wipes from SmithKline Beecham.

Pillsbury joint venture

GRAND Metropolitan's Pillsbury subsidiary and Archer Daniels Midland, an American company, have reached agreement in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to create a flour-milling joint venture under which Pillsbury will receive \$68.5 million. The 50-50 joint venture will be called ADM/TPC Milling. Pillsbury said the partnership will increase productivity, reduce costs and ensure a supply of high-quality flour to Pillsbury. ADM will manage and operate the mills, which are in four states.

TSB makes progress

THE TSB Group's bad debt provisions will show a marked decline this year despite worsening problems in the mortgage subsidiary, Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman, told the annual meeting. Bad debt provisions at Hill Samuel in particular would be much lower than last year. These were the main cause of the bank's £47 million loss last year. However, Mortgage Express, the mortgage business that was already being wound down, was suffering as house prices in the South-East continued to fall.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Telecommunications Industry Major Change Role

Fiji Posts and Telecommunications was changed from a Government Department to a company two years ago. Significant technical advancements have been made since then. The company has a \$50m turnover and 1500 staff, and is now entering a major growth phase in a country of three quarters of a million people.

The Board is seeking to appoint a Chief Executive to work with the management team to effect further significant change:

- * increased commercial focus
- * a strong customer focus
- * improved financial performance
- * position the company to exploit emerging telecommunications technologies

The position provides the potential satisfaction of effecting major strategic change in an organisation, and managing a high profile organisation.

The appointment is located in Fiji's capital, Suva. A generous package (including relocation costs) will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

Applications should be forwarded to:
Ms D Richards, PO Box 4039
Wellington, New Zealand
Fax 64-4-472 2933

The closing date for applications is Friday 3 April 1992

The successful applicant will have:

- * A proven record of achievement in business.
- * Demonstrated skills and experience in managing change.
- * A working appreciation of the technology developments driving change in the telecommunications area.
- * The skills to communicate with customers and the highest level of Government.
- * A broad strategic vision.
- * Be accepted as a leader and demonstrate the capabilities to motivate others.

Direct experience in the telecommunications industry would be an advantage.

Further preliminary details are available in the UK from:
John Neighbour
Ph 0275 375651

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GENERAL

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BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

Continues on page 26.

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Entertaining cuts dent growth in profit at Booker

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE recession is encouraging people to eat at home. Booker, the food group that supplies many of Britain's caterers, felt the pinch last year as pre-tax profits virtually stood still at £103.9 million (£102.9 million).

Jonathan Taylor, the chief executive, said a decline in dining out had "significantly" affected the group's catering revenue. Food distribution was behind more than half of Booker's profit last year, and sales to caterers

made up 40 per cent of the division's total. The company's customers range from Burger King to Buckingham Palace.

Mr Taylor said that hotels, restaurants and other traditional clients were cutting back on their order books because fewer people were dining out.

In addition, the group has been forced to raise its provisions against bad debts to £4.5 million, a threefold increase on the previous period.

because of the impact that the recession is having on its smaller customers.

Fitch Lovell, the food producer and distributor acquired in 1990 for £302 million in cash, is at last beginning to pay its way.

Food distribution saw pre-tax profits rise from £57.9 million to £65.6 million, largely on the back of Fitch Lovell's contribution.

However, the need to issue shares to help finance the Fitch Lovell acquisition, coupled with the effects of the recession, has prompted a 13 per cent decline in earnings per share from 41.9p to 36.3p.

The company's debt has been reduced by just under a third from £199.3 million to £138.2 million. A final 14.25p dividend of makes 21.75p for the year (net of tax credit) against 21.25p in 1990.

Disposals last year realised £64.7 million. Gearing has fallen to 71 per cent compared with 112 per cent the previous year.

Booker is in the process of refocusing the company's divisions, which range from food distribution and agribusiness to fish and prepared foods.

The sale of Kingswood-GK, a chemist chain, and Honsell & Barrett, the health food shops, to Lloyds Chemists in April 1991 raised £37.5 million. Booker Nutritional Products was sold for £11.4 million in September and the sale of P. Leiner, an American nutritional products business, is expected to raise £24 million. The sale is due to be completed next month.

The agribusiness, which includes salmon farming and turkey breeding, added £21.6 million; health products contributed £6.8 million and the fish and prepared foods division added £17.1 million.

The group has pulled out of salmon farming in Canada and France at a cost of £23 million, and taken its first step into food distribution in continental Europe by investing £13.6 million in a cash and carry business in Portugal.

Booker is keen to follow up its venture in Portugal with a similar deal in Spain.

Further acquisitions in southern Europe and expansion in fish processing and frozen food catering are likely to set the tone for the next few months. The purchase for £10 million of the Ross Young frozen food catering distribution business in January may pave the way for similar deals.

Mild winter pegs payout at Calor

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

MILD winter weather and the continuing recession in the UK has led Calor Group, the liquid petroleum gas supplier, to maintain its dividend despite a 16 per cent advance in pre-tax profits last year.

The final payout was pegged at 6p, making an unchanged 12p for the year. Michael Davies, the chairman, said that the decision reflected "both the current trading performance and the

need for continuing investment in the core gas business and in the development of other activities".

Profits before tax for the year to end-December were £45 million compared with £38.9 million for the previous year. Exceptional charges of £7.2 million related to the restructuring and cost reduction programme. A further exceptional restructuring charge will be made in the current year.

Mr Davies said that the programme, which began in 1990, had been promoted by "Calor's experience of a series of mild winters, coupled with increased competition and high and volatile gas prices."

The company said that the performance in 1991 benefited from cold winter weather and a reduction in the interest charge from £4.8 million to £2.6 million.

Growth in profits had been held back by the higher cost of gas supplies and development expenditure.

Trading conditions deteriorated in the second half of the year as liquid petroleum gas costs remained higher in the run-up to the winter period than they had been in the previous year.

Strong internal cash flow allowed net borrowings to be reduced by £20 million to £20.1 million, while shareholders' funds rose by £9.9 million to £179.6 million.

The company said that the Pam Gas project set up to invest in central European liquid petroleum gas markets, made "an encouraging start", and had already formed joint ventures in Poland and Slovakia.

There was also an agreement to establish a venture in Hungary.

City cheers for Coats Viyella

The City reacted with enthusiasm to the first set of full year figures from Coats Viyella, the textiles group, since its £250 million hostile takeover of Tootal in May last year.

Shares in Coats were marked up 9p to 189p on the announcement of a 10 per cent advance in pre-tax profits from £101.4 million to £111.4 million for the year to end-December. Turnover was up from £1.83 billion to £1.95 billion.

The figures included seven months of trading from Tootal, but the profit contribution from the "new" businesses was not broken down. The final dividend was held at 4p, making an unchanged 7p for the year. Dividend cover was 1.4 times.

Neville Bain, the chief executive, said he believed improvement was possible in 1992. The divisions hit hardest by the adverse trading conditions were yarns and fabrics, which saw operating profits slump from £14 million to £1.6 million, and fashion retail where profits fell from £10.2 million to £4.4 million. *Tempos, page 22*

Burmah rises

Pre-tax profits in 1991 at Burmah Castrol, the lubricants and chemicals group, rose slightly from £164.9 million to £165.5 million, but earnings slumped from £2.9p a share to 42.6p, on a tax charge of 47 per cent (37 per cent). A final dividend of 15.5p makes a total of 24p (23p). *Tempos, page 22*

New chairman

Christian Salvesen, the distribution group, has appointed Alick Rankin, chairman of Scottish and Newcastle, as chairman to succeed John West, who is retiring, with effect from July 14.

Minimum wage

The report on the impact of a minimum wage in yesterday's *Times* was based upon a survey by Industrial Relations Services, not Incomes Data Services.



Playing the market: Michael Bucher, left, and Paul Lipscomb with a video "friend" from Atmosfear, a new game

Scrabble maker surges

BY OUR CITY STAFF
JW SPEAR & SONS, the maker of Scrabble and other toys and games, has reported an 80.5 per cent surge in profits.

Organic growth and improved margins, aided by improved productivity, enabled pre-tax profits to advance from £1.4 million to £2.53 million in the year to end-December.

Turnover grew by 19.7 per cent to £27.3 million, with more than half of the group's British production exported. Scrabble accounts for about a third of total sales, with the game available in a wide variety of countries. There is even a version in Braille.

Michael Bucher, managing director, said that the results were highly satisfactory in the face of difficult market conditions.

Paul Lipscomb, finance director, said: "The United Kingdom held up very well. We've actually seen an upturn in sales." He added that the group was hoping to benefit from new products including Atmosfear, a new interactive video game which is about to be launched and will retail at about £25. "It has had a very good reception at toy fairs", Mr Lipscomb added.

There is a final dividend of 8p, giving shareholders a total of 10p for the year, against 8p previously. Earnings rise from 17.9p a share to 32.3p. The shares jumped 15p to 295p.

Ciba-Geigy delivers 24% rise

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

CIBA-GEIGY is among the first of the international chemicals and pharmaceuticals giants to have emerged from the depression in the industry, with a hefty 24 per cent rise in net profits to SFr1.28 billion (£492 million) in 1991.

The rise in profits stemmed mainly from the company's pharmaceutical and agricultural business, which accounts for 60 per cent of sales. The industrial chemicals sector is depressed, however, with sales down by 4 per cent and with no sign of a significant improvement this year.

The Ciba-Geigy results are consistent with the industrial development in the chemical business which has been marked by a boom in pharmaceuticals and a depression in basic chemicals. Hence, the relative performance of

in industrial chemical sales was more than compensated for by an 18 per cent rise in the agricultural business and a 10 per cent rise in pharmaceuticals.

Total sales were up by 5 per cent to SFr21.1 billion. In the first two months of the current year sales grew by between 5 and 10 per cent. America is the largest pharmaceutical market in the world, accounting for 32 per cent of Ciba-Geigy's pharmaceutical sales. Most of the growth comes from new products.

The Ciba-Geigy results are consistent with the industrial development in the chemical business which has been marked by a boom in pharmaceuticals and a depression in basic chemicals. Hence, the relative performance of

the world's chemical giants is almost wholly attributable to their exposure to the various segments.

Dr Krauer also announced "a shareholder-friendly share capital increase". Under the scheme, shareholders will be entitled to one new share for every 25 shares held. The price will about two thirds of the share price in early May, and it is thought the issue will raise about SFr490 million.

Ciba-Geigy spent or SFr2.19 billion on research and development, or 10.4 per cent of sales, a level which the company is committed to maintain this year.

Capital expenditure was down 5 per cent to SFr1.96 billion, and will remain at this level. The dividend goes up by SFr5 to SFr65 per share and participation

Bunzl falls for the third year running

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

PRE-TAX profits at Bunzl, the paper, plastic and building products group that is undergoing a major restructuring, fell for the third successive year in 1991.

However, the shares perked up 4p to 90p on evidence that the overhaul of the group may begin to pay off during the current year.

Trading profits for the year to end-December were down by 17 per cent at £49.7 million mainly because of difficult trading conditions in the building materials business in America and problems with the Italian and Brazilian operations.

Net restructuring costs of £8.7 million taken above the line and a higher interest charge meant that profits before tax fell from £52.6 million to £31.7 million. Group profits reached a peak of £93.3 million in 1988 at the end of a period of rapid acquisition growth.

A new central management team has been built up in the past seven months following the appointment of Anthony Habgood as chief executive. Since his arrival, businesses with combined sales of about £250 million have been shut, rationalised, or sold. Staffing has been reduced by 15 per cent to about 8,000. Mr Habgood said the group would now concentrate on turning round the performance of its five remaining business areas.

Borrowings were almost unchanged at £109 million, but the gearing level rose to 55 per cent because of a £15 million reduction in net assets, largely due to further charges associated with past disposals. These were shown in the accounts as the bulk of a £10.3 million extraordinary item. Interest cover was 4.4 times.

The final dividend of 2.2p made a barely covered 4p payout for the year, a 32 per cent reduction on 1991. Analysts said they welcomed the measures taken by the new management and have pencilled in profits of between £42 million and £46 million for the current year.

"Continuing efforts to reduce operating costs and working capital will place the Group in a strong position to benefit from an upturn in the world economy."

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

For the year ended 31 December	1991	1990
Turnover	£874.4m	£928.1m
Return on sales before exceptional items	4.7%	5.8%
Profit before tax	£30.8m	£40.2m
Earnings per ordinary share	6.9p	9.0p
Dividends per ordinary share	5.4p	5.4p
Shareholders' funds	£138.1m	£138.1m

THE YEAR IN BRIEF

- Reduced operating costs and improved control over working capital limit profit decline in competitive environment.
- Financially strong with gearing at 42% and interest cover at five times.
- Maintained final dividend of 5.4p per ordinary share.
- 5% higher order intake in 1991 than in 1990 despite unfavourable economic conditions.
- Order book at the start of 1992 15% above the comparable 1991 level.
- Over £30m invested in the dry foods facility at Peterborough

Copies of the Report and Accounts will be available after 27 April 1992 from APV plc, 1 Lygon Place, London SW1W 0JR.

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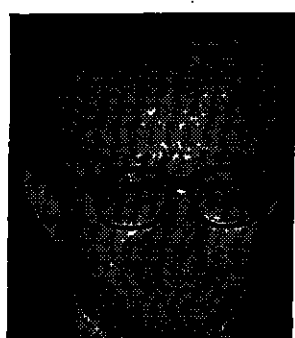
United Newspapers slides

BY OUR CITY STAFF

UNITED Newspapers, publisher of the *Daily Express*, suffered an 11 per cent drop in pre-tax profits last year to £85.2 million due to a fall in advertising and sales. Lord Stevens of Ludgate, the chairman, said the results illustrated the depth and the extent of the recession and were not unreasonable in the circumstances.

The fall in profits includes a loss of £1 million from *Punch* magazine which the group decided earlier this week will close in two weeks unless a buyer is found.

Graham Wilson, the managing director, said he did not expect to find a buyer, but that it would be nice for one to appear. He said there were no other plans for closures among the group's 25 consumer and 75 business titles. United is holding its final



Stevens: 11% profit fall

dividend at 13.5p to make an unchanged 21p for the year.

The group's magazine division incurred most of the fall in profits, as it slipped 28 per cent to £21.4 million, due to the fall in advertising revenue. Mr Wilson said advertising volumes had retreated by 15 per cent. The group closed several titles during the year but bought others in America.

The national newspaper division increased profits, by contrast, to £27.1 million due to cost-cutting and a 5p cover price increase on the *Express*. The regional newspaper business saw profits slip by 6 per cent to £27.1 million due to a slump in situations vacant classified advertising.

Mr Wilson said that the results included £4 million of reorganisation expenses and that the group had reduced costs by up to £15 million in a full year.

During the year, United spent £21 million on acquisitions and disposed of IDD, the financial information service. The group also bid for several pieces of Robert Maxwell's collapsed media empire but was unsuccessful.

The financial information division, which includes Extel, increased profits slightly to £10.1 million due to the sale of IDD.

Takeover panel shows the red card

BY NEIL BENNETT

DUNDEE Football Club might be riding high at the top of the Scottish First Division, but the City takeover panel yesterday laid low two of its former owners. Andrew Drummond, a Dundee solicitor, and Robert Prentice had formed a "concert party" to win control of the club without making a full bid.

For the first time, the panel has used its most potent power of "cold-shouldering", which prevents any merchant bank or stockbroker from acting for the two men in a future takeover.

An appeal committee of the panel on Wednesday upheld an earlier decision to censure publicly the two men who, it says, made "a deliberate attempt to conceal" a concert party.

The panel has also condemned Mr Drummond for failing to co-operate with its investigation and is making a formal complaint to the Law Society of Scotland.

Cold-shouldering, introduced along with the Financial Services Act, is the

panel's strongest deterrent. The panel is contacting the Securities and Investments Board, which will write to other regulatory bodies and to regulated financial firms warning them not to deal with Mr Drummond or Mr Prentice in any takeover, at the risk of losing their regulatory licences.

The incident began when three companies bought an 82.5 per cent stake in Dundee FC for £750,000 in September last year. A company controlled by Mr Drummond bought 29.9 per cent and one controlled by Mr Prentice bought another 29.9 per cent. Under the terms of the code, any party with more than 30 per cent of a company has to make a full bid. The two men, however, did not do so.

By January, they had sold 71 per cent of the club to another company at a profit of £79,000. That company launched a full bid, although Mr Drummond retained an 11 per cent stake. It was then that the takeover panel became interested.

During its investigation, the panel

complained that "many communications were allowed to go unanswered or were met with deliberate obstruction" by Mr Drummond.

When the time came for the case to be heard, neither Mr Drummond nor Mr Prentice bothered to come to London. Instead, they sent a written statement. They were also absent from the appeal hearing.

In their defence, the two men claimed they were unaware of the full details of the Takeover Code, which apply to takeovers of all public companies. The appeal committee dismissed the claim. "If an individual or company engages in takeover transactions, he ignores the provisions of the code at his peril," it said.

Peter Lee, the deputy director general of the takeover panel, said this was an important decision for the panel. "Even though the sums may not be very large, the point of principle is important. It demonstrates that if you do not comply with the code, this will be the consequence," he said.

EUROPEAN VIEW

Tiny finds a generous buyer

René Leclézio, in his softer French tones, may not have been as extravagant as the previous occupant of the Lorrho chair in his praise of the group's all-powerful chief executive. He certainly hit the button when he said: "Mr Rowland is no ordinary man". Who but the ever-surprising Tiny Rowland would have cooked up a deal to take the Libyan state investment company as his partner in a chain of British conference hotels, when Britain and America have been trying to drum up economic sanctions against Colonel Gaddafi's regime.

The upside is that the colonel's men were prepared to pay a good price: £177 million for a one-third stake. The Metropole group had a book value of £390 million but outsiders reckoned Lorrho would be lucky to get £100 million less than book value if it were forced to sell at the moment. Instead, the injection enables Lorrho to retain Metropole, in which it has invested heavily, while apparently cutting attributable group net debt by nearly £120 million and easing its advance corporation tax bind. Cash is available for partnerships in some of the fine assets Lorrho has built. The downside, at the least, is that the market will feel Lorrho could not afford to be choosy.

The more immediate worry for Lorrho investors must lie in the first half of the current year, which Mr Leclézio made clear would be dire. One or two analysts have projected profits as low as £30 million but such pessimistic figures would not allow for one-off profits, for instance from sales of property in Germany. A deal over the group's Volkswagen concession should not be ruled out. For trading, especially in the second half, much depends on the timing of Lorrho's intended expansion of platinum and rhodium production this year and how this fits with recovery of precious metal prices. That could produce a late bounce. Lorrho certainly needs it.

Late victory

Redland always looked likely to win the battle for control of Steeley and though professional shareholders left it late, the acceptance poured in yesterday. The lateness of the victory tells us more about uncertainties arising from an impending election rather than institutional support for Steeley whose defence suffered a mortal blow with the revelation that it was writing off a significant portion of its investment in a French aggregates acquisition.

Steeley's plans for a joint venture with Tarmac looked defensive though by no means lacked sense. But they made a full bid, with a premium for control passing directly to shareholders, far more difficult to fight off. To many shareholders, the abortive deal with Tarmac had too many overtones of a poison pill. The recent spate of bid rumours swirling around Tarmac underlines the perceived vulnerability of a company which has suffered far more than many in the housing downturn. Steeley shareholders, if they have opted for the share offer, should have little to bemoan in the immediate future. They have a much less direct exposure to the problems of the domestic economy and can expect Redland's lively top management to make good use of the group's enlarged assets.

Redland has been stalking Steeley for a long time and has clearly developed plans for squeezing out £30 million of costs and other merger benefits. The deal should be a splendid one for Redland shareholders as the economy finally pulls out of recession. That may be a longish haul, yet it is difficult to assess the extent of the election blight which has halted or slowed commercial decisions throughout the economy.

The scent of dogma slowly fades from France's industrial policy

Wolfgang Münchau believes that change is in the air as the Cresson government increasingly appears to have run out of steam

One is the enthusiasm that greeted the new government when it took office more than a decade ago. The economic pattern is all too familiar: a recession to start with, an illusory economic miracle to follow, and now this. The government looks tired. Rarely has the notion that it is time for change had such powerful appeal.

The country in question is, of course, France. The regional elections last weekend gave an inkling of the general, though not necessarily well articulated, dissatisfaction of the French voter. The ballot, which pushed the socialists below 20 per cent, could herald an end to their era, and with it an end to some of the socialist economic policies. The feeling that something is about to change in France is all too palpable.

The election was followed by two seemingly unrelated events, both in the corporate sector. Perrier, the flagship mineral water company, finally succumbed to a hostile foreign takeover, symbolising the end of France's out-moded takeover practices. Then newspapers speculated that Renault, the state-owned car maker, was about to merge with Volvo into a company with significant private-sector shareholdings.

These events indicate a departure from Edith Cresson's protectionist industrial policy dogmas. This shift in policy has been apparent for some time and is significant, not only for its own sake but also because industrial policy forms the only area of economic policy in which France's socialists differ significantly from the main opposition. If the socialists water down their industrial policy, the main political parties offer almost no distinguishable economic agendas, especially as the opposition is not principally opposed to industrial policy as such. These policies will also be indistinguishable from those of France's neighbours.

Monetary policy has, effectively, been in the hands of the Bundesbank since the creation of the exchange-rate mechanism in 1979. The French also agree to keep public finances healthy and have eschewed the notorious fiscal profligacy of southern Europe.

Only on the issue of industrial policy did the socialists and the conservatives offer distinct alternatives. The socialists believed in the strategic industries, whose corporate representatives are otherwise unwelcome known as national champions. The right offered privatisation, a policy adopted briefly in the period of cohabitation during the short-lived Mitterrand/Chirac administration in the late Eighties.



Time to leave? Last weekend's ballot may herald the end of Edith Cresson's term in France

Since then, the tide has been turning against the national champions towards privatisation, not only in France but elsewhere in Europe.

This trend has put France's socialists in a policy dilemma. Mme Cresson gave this concept perhaps a final run up the flagpole last year when she started insulting the Japanese and insisted that France must retain an independent capability in sectors such as electronics.

However, the Cresson dogma faltered early. It was certainly no option for Bull, the financially troubled state computer maker, which saw no alternative but to bring IBM in as a shareholder and partner so that it could stand a chance in this rough market. Nor will this dogma be an option for Renault, a medium-sized car maker in relation to the European car industry leaders.

Outside Europe, Renault is hardly known, and the sector is vulnerable to the eventual unrestricted opening of the market to Japanese car makers. Renault on its own looks vulner-

able. The shift in industrial policy has a number of causes: market deregulation in the case of cars, changing demand in the case of computers.

The most significant cause is the supply-side squeeze. The trouble facing France's state-owned companies is similar in type, though not in scale, to the weakness of Britain's former state-owned combines: they are underfunded.

For example, France's so-called *Grandes Entreprises Nationales* (GEN), excluding the state-owned banks and insurance groups, had a joint turnover in 1990 of £523 billion, which is equivalent to 7.1 per cent of the turnover in the non-financial private sector. Yet GEN borrowing amounted to only 3 per cent of the borrowing of the non-financial private sector. In other words, a French private company can borrow more than twice as much per unit of output sold. From anecdotal evidence, the situation is similar in the

financial sector, as France's state-owned banks are undercapitalised compared with European rivals.

State ownership has squeezed the investment and expansion of such companies. The contrast between private and public sectors also puts into perspective the notion sometimes entertained at the European Commission, that the French government is pouring good money after bad into its state-owned holdings, distorting competition in their respective sectors.

One could explain the borrowing differentials by arguing that the public companies are all lame ducks, compared with a much healthier private sector.

This argument might hold true elsewhere, but the French GEN include a number of decent and profitable companies, such as Elf, France Telecom, and Rhône-Poulenc. The underlying weakness in industrial policy as pursued in France is that if a company is considered "strategic" enough to warrant a public status, it might be

deprived of the funds it needs to pursue this strategy. Furthermore, the commission's focus on competition in France will make it even more difficult over time for French state-owned companies to invest "strategically" elsewhere in Europe.

The next question is how to privatise. The British way of privatisation is perhaps not a good example. The conservative government under M. Chirac chose this approach with some companies, such as Saint Gobain, the glass maker. The problem with flotations is that it is government that receives the money, rather than the companies, at least initially. This would not solve the undercapitalisation problem in the short term, the solution of which is most pressing at the moment.

The French government is, in any case, one of the few in Europe that does not need the money. This might sound extravagant, but France is certainly one of the few European countries whose public finances are relatively healthy. Total gross debt is 47.2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), marginally higher than Germany's or Britain's. Last year's public sector borrowing was only 1.5 per cent of GDP, less than Britain's 2.25 per cent or Germany's 3.6 per cent. Since the French, like the British, react to fiscal stimuli by buying foreign goods, one could argue that little is to be gained by the fiscal effects of a privatisation sale windfall. Nor do the French need to spend vast sums on building their infrastructure, which is already the best in Europe. On this aspect, at least, France and Britain differ.

Since privatisation is not necessary from a fiscal policy point of view, the French find themselves able to choose a different approach by bringing private investors in as strategic and financial partners.

This approach may be characterised as privatisation by stealth but it amounts to privatisation nevertheless, at least over the medium to long term. This happened when IBM stepped in to help Bull. IBM's future equity stake, about 5 per cent to 10 per cent, is only marginal, but the technical and marketing link is more significant. Over time, IBM could emerge as the leading shareholder and, who knows, IBM may gobble up Bull altogether eventually, despite official protestations.

Few save the most dogmatic proponents of industrial chivalry, such as Mme Cresson, will mourn the evolution from a pure state sector into a cohabitation of public and private. This does not end industrial policy but curbs its worst excesses.

With the last bastion of socialist economic policy crumbling, the question of whether the socialists or the Gaullists run the country will matter less and less, at least from an economic standpoint. In this respect, France is becoming just like every other country in Europe.

French malaise, page 14

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Fletcher flies Fry

MIKE Fletcher, managing director of Johnson Fry, is leaving to join his old Keele university chum and long-time skiing companion Philip Soar on the board of Blenheim Group, the UK's top exhibitions organizer and former USM company of the year. Fletcher, aged 46, who will head Blenheim's UK business, is believed to have been tempted by a salary of about £150,000 a year, plus share options in Blenheim — where profits have risen from £0.5 million to £28.3 million in six years, via a hectic acquisitions programme — which could make Fletcher a millionaire. Fletcher admits that the move means leaving behind substantial share options at Johnson Fry, where he has been for the past five years, but says he hopes the Blenheim options will "more than compensate" for the loss. He also leaves behind "a whole stack" of new ideas he has been working on in readiness for the day when BES schemes — property schemes account at BES for over a third of Johnson Fry's profits — come to an end in 1993. "The last thing I wanted to do was to leave Johnson Fry in the lurch and I don't think I have," says Fletcher. He has timed his departure to coincide with the end of Johnson Fry's busiest period of the year, and will join Blenheim at the start of May.

Carte blanche

BARELY 36 hours after bidding farewell to colleagues and contacts at a lavish party



"I'm worried about sanctions — or a possible air strike."

in a Covent Garden wine bar, hosted by GrandMet chairman Sir Allen Shepard, Tim Halford, the firm's in-house public relations man, will this morning announce that he has landed a new job. Halford, aged 45, and previously employed by Occidental Petroleum as Armand Hammer's personal assistant — he was said to be one of only three men in whom Hammer confided — is to become director of public affairs at Trafalgar House. "I seem to like Sixties companies," says Halford. "Occidental, GrandMet and Trafalgar all floated in 1962 or 1963 and companies of that era seem to have a certain style. A legacy of entrepreneurial style, perhaps." Thankfully his change of employer will not interfere with Halford's culinary preferences. Already a regular at the restaurant in the Stafford Hotel, openly preferring it to GrandMet's Chef & Brewer eatery chain, he will now be positively encouraged to

maintain the habit, since the Stafford, along with the Ritz, is owned by ... Trafalgar.

Roux to rescue

THE Roux Brothers adopted the Dunkirk spirit with relish yesterday when a crane, being used for window cleaning on a building opposite James Capel in Bevis Marks, collapsed onto an adjacent roof. While police sealed the road — preventing many Capel employees from returning to work after luncheon, staff from Roux's external caterers, which provides in-house food at Capel, took to the street with a trolley of refreshments for the firemen and police.

Signing with relief

LAWRENCE Lever, the former Times journalist who led the field reporting the Barlow Clowes affair, has met his most important deadline to date. Yesterday, he was in Manchester signing copies of his book *The Barlow Clowes Affair* and breathing a sigh of relief publication did not coincide with the birth of his first child, due on election eve. "I had a terrible vision of my wife going into labour early and me being stuck in Manchester," he said. If his wife Keren had given birth early, she would have been bereft of support as his mother brought half the family and friends to the launch. "Just like a re-run of our wedding, minus the bride," he quipped. Meanwhile, the book has gone straight into the *Sunday Times* Bookwatch bestseller list at number 20.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Price of ERM is unacceptable

From C.R. Baker

Sir, It is typical of the "head in the clouds" attitude to Europe held by such as Michael Cassidy (*Business News*, March 20) that gives this election an unreal appearance. The arguments on the economy are reiterated every day by all parties and they all broadly say the same thing — we're in the ERM and we make our policy from that starting point.

No one talks about lower interest rates or promises them in the UK, because they are not possible while Germany sucks in huge amounts of money to bail out what was formerly East Germany, for which it needs high levels of interest rates to attract the funds in the first place; and in the meantime, wage demands and awards are going up there because interest rates are higher than they've been before — which, of course, pushes up inflation

etc. etc. We've seen it all before.

The difference this time is that the poor (and becoming much poorer) citizens of Britain are being penalised because of Germany's social and political priorities, they are losing their jobs in large numbers, their businesses are closing at an alarming rate and their houses are declining in value, diminishing their disposable income.

To paraphrase someone famous who resigned after an indiscreet lunch, something's not right and until it is, thoughts about saving European central banks, joining EMU etc are pie in the sky, because when they wake up to what's happening, our people won't want any part of it. Yours sincerely, C.R. BAKER, c/o Bechtel House, 4th Floor, 245 Hammersmith Road, W6.

Insurers short-change policyholders

From Mr John L. Norden

Sir, Many people whose life and pensions policies are due to mature this year will, it seems, be receiving payouts well below reasonable expectations, thanks to the decision of the leading houses, taken after consultation, to reduce bonus rates.

Apparently they attempt to justify this to the unfortunate policyholder by pointing to a general expectation of lower interest rates in the next few years. This will be small consolation to those who have paid their premiums, in preference to surrendering, in the belief that life and pensions policies are a reliable, if unexciting, form of investment.

Needless to say, this belief has been fostered by the insurers.

The rising generation should be warned that the insurance industry, which seemed to have recovered from the blow to its reputation inflicted by the collapse of UKPI, is now placing a low priority on keeping faith with private policyholders.

Yours faithfully, J.L. NORDEN, 31 Manor Road, Bladon, Oxfordshire.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

British Gas announces changes to the Medium Term (MT2) Schedule for Firm and Interruptible contract customers.

For new contracts entered into under the terms of the MT2 Schedule on or after the 1st April 1992 the following changes will apply:

- (i) The maximum annual variation to the nominated consumption of each individual premises shall be plus or minus 10%.
- (ii) The Minimum Payment Quantity in each Contract Year shall be 50% of the nominated consumption of each premises.
- (iii) The maximum permitted carry over of Credit Terms shall not exceed 10% of the nominated consumption of each individual premises in any one Contract Year. Credit Terms are terms consumed in excess of the nominated consumption at each individual premises.

These changes do not apply to contracts entered into under the MT2 Schedule.

Copies of the Schedules and conditions of contract are available from the Registered and Regional Head Offices of British Gas.

Registered in England No. 2090000. Registered office: 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Registered in England No. 2090000.

British Gas

Portfolio

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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won a share of a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always keep your card safe when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Comp	Share	Price	Div	Yield
1	Waters	Industrial	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
2	Anglo	Food	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
3	RMC	Building	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
4	Thames	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
5	Baker	Food	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
6	BTP	Building	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
7	Baker	Food	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
8	Stora	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
9	Blue	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
10	Scott & New	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
11	Colson	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
12	THORN	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
13	Plm	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
14	NRC	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
15	Verde	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
16	Stora	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
17	Blue	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
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19	WPP	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
20	South	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
21	Grand	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
22	MEPC	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
23	BOC	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
24	Comwell	Water	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily gains for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Joan Harvey, of Poole, Dorset, and Barbara Gueff, of London SW19, each received £2,000.

1991/92 High Low Company Price Div Yield % P/E

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Shares make small gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 23. Dealings and April 3. Settlement day April 13. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1991/92 High Low Company Price Div Yield % P/E

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1991/92 High Low Company Price Div Yield % P/E

Equity Prices 25

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 23. Dealings and April 3. Settlement day April 13. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1991/92 High Low Company Price Div Yield % P/E

1991/92 High Low Company Price Div Yield % P/E

1991/92

Year of celebration for a nation reborn

Spain has transformed itself since the death of Franco and this year is on display for the world to see, Peter Strafford reports. But there are some worries about its future in the EC's single market

Spain has taken 1992 as its great opportunity to present itself to the world in its new democratic and progressive guise. Spaniards are justifiably proud of the transformation they have brought about in many areas of their national life since General Franco's death in 1975, and they have seized on the symbolic significance of this year, the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World.

Enormous sums of money have been spent on building new roads, railway lines, airport and port buildings, telecommunications facilities and hotels for the year's two big events: Expo '92, the world fair that will be held in Seville from April 20 to October 12, and the Olympic Games, to take place in Barcelona from July 25 to August 9. In Madrid, which is European cultural capital for the year, museums, theatres, concert halls and parks are being refurbished and new ones built.

There is nothing half-hearted about the way the Spaniards have gone about all this. They have been ambitious and enthusiastic, and that has made them an easy target for carping when things have gone wrong. The year is important for them, however, both politically and psychologically.

They are a proud people, conscious of better days in the past, and it hurt them to be seen for so long as an economic and cultural backwater, in the grip of a backward-looking dictatorship, while across the Pyrenees democratic Western Europe was surging ahead.

José María Álvarez del Manzano, the mayor of Madrid, says: "We had to beg to be admitted to Europe, when once we were rulers in Europe."

He points out of his window at a medieval tower on one side of the Plaza de la Villa. "That is where the French King François 1er was

held prisoner in the 16th century," he says.

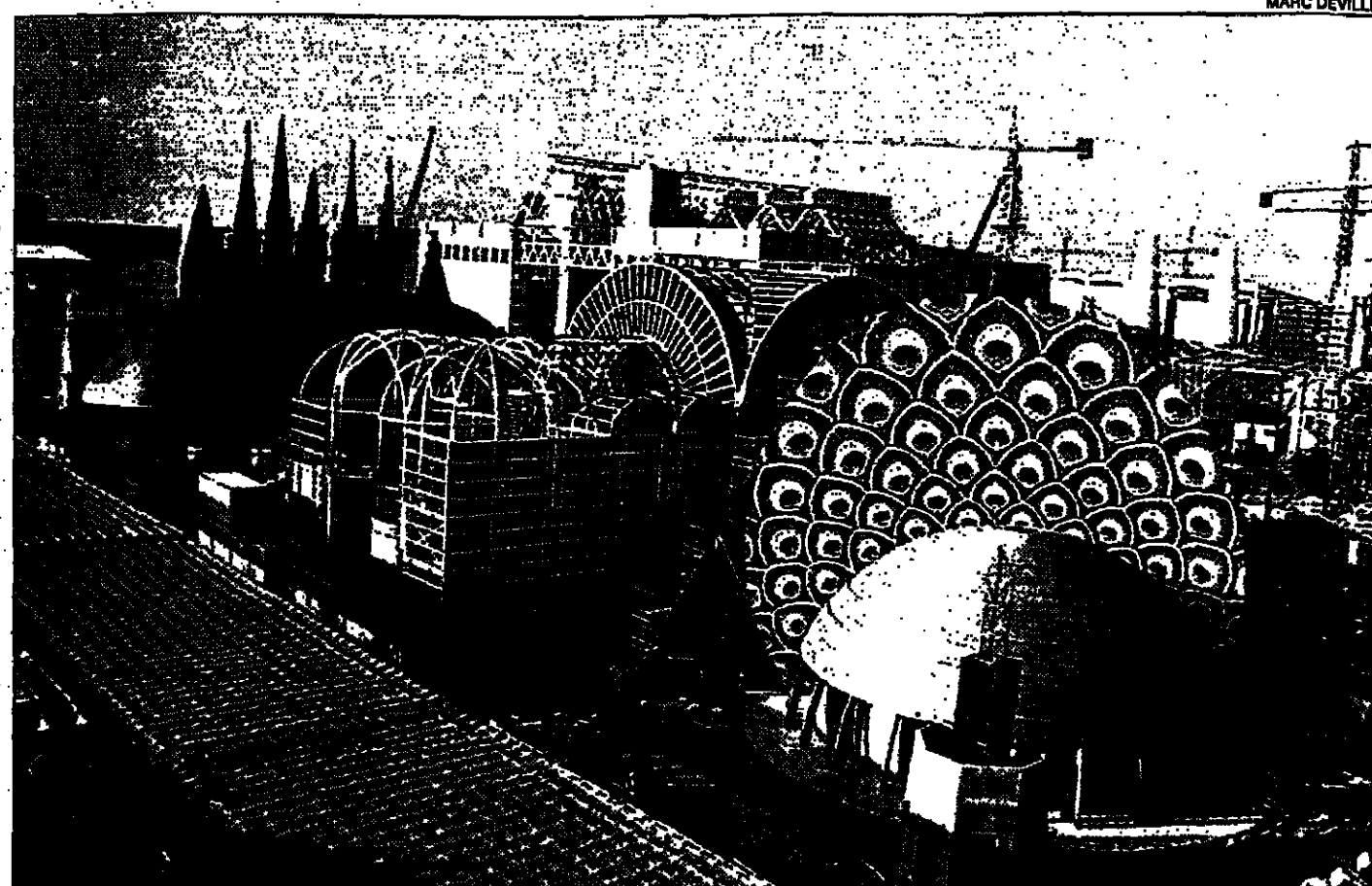
There is a general belief that Spain has now put the bad days behind it, and that the world should be encouraged to come and see. Narcís Serra, the deputy prime minister, says this is a turning point in Spain's history. There are, he says, four principal areas of achievement: Spain now has a young, but mature and functioning democracy; it has achieved "a certain performance" in the economic area; it has succeeded in structuring internal relations between the centre and the regions; and it has a presence in Europe, as an active member of the European union being built.

Joan Maragall, the mayor of Barcelona, goes further. Spain, he says, has resolved issues that go back to 1812, when the first modern, liberal constitution was signed. For more than a century and a half the country had been bedevilled, not just by political instability, but by such questions as relations between church and state, land reform and freedom of expression. These are no longer in dispute.

All is not euphoria, however. People are painfully aware of the continuing atrocities committed by Eta, the terrorist movement that demands Basque independence, and of the growth of drug trafficking and addiction, a new phenomenon in Spain. There are the tensions caused by immigration, mainly from North Africa, which is also new in a country more used to emigration than immigration.

In the economic area, Spain achieved rapid rates of growth during the 1980s, and began to catch up its richer partners in the European Community, which it joined in 1986.

The rate of growth has slowed, however, and Spain has paid a high price in unemployment, now officially 15 per cent, for the



Pavilion spectacular: Expo '92, running from April until October in Seville, is Spain's way of showing itself off to the world

continuing process of modernisation. There is a widespread fear that the Spanish economy, which has difficulty in meeting the challenge of international competition in the future.

The European single market will come into effect next year, and further demands will be made as the EC moves towards economic and monetary union. Spain is determined to be up with the leaders, but people know that the going is likely to be rough.

Señor Serra admits he sometimes feels that Spain is trying to go too fast. Professor Cayetano López Martínez, the rector of the Autonomous University of Madrid, is even more pessimistic. "The changes in Spain are spectacular," he says. "But they are not deep enough. I am not sure that scientific power and education in Spain approach those of the rest of Europe, and that will be

crucial for the future. Spain's capacity for real competition in industry is not great enough.

"We still have the burden of the 19th century — corrupt regimes, the buying of votes, the strong, and bad, influence of the Church. We have to fight against the inertia of history."

For the moment, however, there is much to celebrate, as any comparison with the Spain of, say, 20 years ago will show. Alejandro Rojas Marcos, the mayor of Seville, points out that he was arrested three times for opposition to Franco, and spent a month in prison. Since then, the political transformation has been total, from dictatorship to a democratic system, which, although it is now dominated by one party, the Socialists (PSOE), and although there have been some well publicised cases of corruption, has proved its stability.

The economic improvement was less sudden, as it had already begun under Franco in the 1960s. However, it has accelerated dramatically during the past decade, and most Spaniards live far better than they did.

Señor Serra's third point, relations between the centre and the regions, is significant because that is an area in which some of the biggest changes have taken place. Spain is a country of great diversity, in which there have always been disputes between the central government in Madrid and regions, such as Catalonia and the Basque country, that have a strong sense of identity, and a language of their own.

Devolution of power from the centre was one of the causes of the Civil War of 1936-9, and after his victory Franco clamped down on any demonstration of regional identity. Efforts were made to

stamp out the Basque and Catalan languages. The harshness of Franco's policy, which went against the tolerance often shown for regional rights in Spanish history, led to the creation of Eta by Basque extremists, as well as less significant independence movements in Catalonia and in Galicia, which also has a language of its own.

Since 1979 Franco's policy has been reversed and autonomy granted, first to the Basque country, Catalonia and Galicia, and subsequently to 14 other regions. This devolution is felt to have been a success. Devolution has not removed all grievances between Madrid and the regions, but it has transferred decision-making on many issues to the regions, and provided an institutional framework for discussing differences.

In the Basque country, Eta continues to be a serious menace, as it does throughout the country,

but its political base has been undermined and its appeal weakened. There is now a Basque regional government, headed by the Partido Nacional Vasco, a long-established and moderate Basque nationalist party, and every significant party in the region except Herri Batasuna, generally associated with Eta, has condemned terrorism.

The regional structure is not static. Every region has its own statute of autonomy, with a list of powers that varies from one to another. Discussion is now continuing on a new agreement, which will transfer new powers, including responsibility for education, to regions with less autonomy. At the other end of the scale, Catalonia, which considers that it is a special case because of its history, and which already has greater powers than most of the other regions, is pressing for new ones.

Señor Serra's final point, and another area of achievement by democratic Spain, is relations with the rest of Europe. In Franco's day, Europe was for most Spaniards an ideal world on the other side of the Pyrenees. Now that it has become a member of the EC, Spain has not only come out of its isolation, but experienced great improvement in its standard of living. Europe and the concept of European unity have continued to have a special appeal. Spaniards are proud to consider themselves Europeans.

At EC meetings Spain is an enthusiastic European. It has also pressed for extra financial help for the poorer countries, of which it is the leader. At the Maastricht summit in December it persuaded its partners to agree to set up a new Cohesion Fund, intended to help itself, the Irish Republic, Portugal and Greece, though no amounts were agreed.

The government is often able to present unpopular internal policies, particularly in the economic field, as being required by Spain's membership of the EC. It is keen, however, not to cause a revulsion against the EC.

Señor Serra emphasises that, although economic measures may be necessary to bring Spain into line with the other members, they are needed in any case for the process of modernising Spain.

CIDEM

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The Center for Information and Business Development is a publicly owned corporation established by the Catalan government to assist foreign companies seeking to invest in Catalonia.

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After nearly ten years in power, the socialist government of Felipe González seems immovable. Frank Smith on why the opposition has no teeth...

REX FEATURE

Left in the centre, right out in the cold

José María Aznar, leader of the main opposition party, the conservative Popular Party (PP), put it succinctly earlier this month. "We have to learn to fall in love again", he said, "with politics, democracy and freedom."

Señor Aznar was speaking during the regional election campaign in Catalonia. He identified a disenchantment that has become pronounced in Spanish political life over the past couple of years and is reflected in two trends: the increasingly bitter relations between the main political parties, and the growing gap between politicians and the people they represent.

It is partly explained by the fact that, after almost ten years of rule by the Socialists,

led by Felipe González, the prime minister, the chances of anyone removing them from power in the foreseeable future are remote. The Spanish political system is, as a result, fossilised, and the opposition parties are more and more frustrated by their inability to effect change.

Faced with this reality, the PP has concentrated its attack on the one area in which it believes the government to be vulnerable—the proliferation of scandals that have dogged Spanish political and financial life in recent times. The latest affair involves allegations of "insider trading" and of shady connections, officially denied, between Mariano Rubio, the governor of the Bank of Spain, and Ibercorp, a small investment

banking group that is being investigated for possible breaches of financial probity.

The affair is symptomatic, the PP claims, of the kind of country Spain has become under the Socialists—a nation in which the so-called "beautiful people", financiers and bankers with links to the Socialist party, have become a class apart from the rest of society, seemingly able to do what they like with impunity.

This image of modern Spain, of a society in which rulers and ruled have become divorced, is denounced not only by the PP, but by a press that is capable nowadays of digging up almost daily dirt about people in high places. It is something that concerns and angers Señor González.

Still only 50, despite his ten years in office, Señor González has repeatedly accused the PP of trying to make political capital out of cases of alleged corruption in Spain. "This country has no more, though probably no fewer, examples of corruption than any other democratic country," he says. "What lies behind all this is the desperation of an opposition that realises that it has little chance of coming to power."

The PP vehemently denies this charge. Where there is corruption, it says, the party has a democratic duty to denounce it. The resulting slanging match makes nor-

mal discourse in political life here difficult.

Relations between the main parties have become so frosty that some day-to-day business, the kind done through "the usual channels", has been interrupted.

The election of members of the Constitutional Court, for instance, has been blocked for weeks because of the deterioration in relations between the Socialists and the PP. When Señor González and Señor Aznar met recently to sign a new agreement affecting the regional governments of Spain, it was their first face-to-face encounter for more than a year.

The paralysis of political life and the lack of a real political alternative to the Socialists pose problems that even Señor González is prepared to admit. "The institutions would function much better, and the political climate would be much calmer", he declared, "if the opposition had real expectations of power. But they seem incapable of creating an alternative in which even their own voters can believe."

This is the essential weakness of the Spanish political system at the moment. The Socialists are an immovable object and Señor González is a political Goliath whom Señor Aznar simply cannot



Rally for victory: but the gap is growing between politicians and the people they have been elected to represent.

topple. It is partly a question of personality. Although younger than Señor González, Señor Aznar does not begin to measure up to his Socialist rival in political charisma.

It is also partly that Señor Aznar is handicapped by having to work in the still far-reaching shadow of the previous PP leader, Manuel Fraga Iribarne. Once a minister under Franco, Señor Fraga is now semi-retired from the

national scene, and heads the autonomous government of Galicia, in northwestern Spain. But he has the disconcerting knack of making statements in public that blatantly contradict the policies pursued by his successor.

Personalities apart, there is another, more fundamental, reason why, in the foreseeable future, it will be difficult for the opposition to break the mould and come to power in today's Spain. Ideological dif-

ferences between left and right have, as elsewhere in Europe, virtually disappeared.

The government is socialist in nothing but name, and has taken the centre ground of liberal capitalism, the traditional reserve of the Spanish right.

At the same time, since the Roman Catholic Church deliberately withdrew from the political fray during the final years of the Franco regime,

the right has also been deprived of the ideological momentum that, in the past, brought it together and distinguished it from the left.

With the right unable to appeal to traditional Catholic values and the Socialists offering a decent job in the nurturing of capitalism, seems that Spanish conservatives may continue to flounder on the opposition benches in the Cortes for some time.



Political Goliath: Felipe González has no real challengers

Happy to be Europeans

Once the least continental of countries, Spain is now among the EC's most enthusiastic members

One of the most remarkable aspects of modern Spain has been its metamorphosis from the parish of Europe into one of the most active and determined members of the European Community. It joined the EC only six years ago, but it is very much a part of the continent.

Spain continues to cherish its relations with the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America, although for sentimental rather than practical reasons. Closer to home, it is deeply concerned about the prospect of turbulence in North Africa. However, Europe has become the principal focus of its foreign policy.

Spain's ambition to become more European than the Europeans, to throw in its lot with the political and economic destiny of the EC, can only be properly explained by those dark days of isolationism experienced during the Franco dictatorship. To belong to the democratic club of European nations was the most obvious way to consolidate the new Spanish society that was emerging after 40 years of authoritarian rule, and to exorcise the old demons which had bedevilled Spanish political life for so long.

"We distrusted ourselves," says Eduardo Punset, a member of the European Parliament, who was minister for relations with Europe when Spain first applied to join the club in the late 1970s. "All we had to do was look at our history, and realise that we did not have a very good record of democracy. When told that Brussels could do it for us, we thought it would be better than anything we had had in the past here."

Fifteen years on, that judgment has proved to have been sound. Membership of the Community is paying handsome dividends, too, in terms of political consensus. Felipe González, Spain's prime minister for the past "European" decade, has watched over his country's graduation from apprentice to professional in the Community stakes.

"Spanish public opinion", Señor González says, "has always favoured our integration into Europe, as a way of bringing a relatively backward country into line with much more developed countries—politically, institutionally, socially and economically."

The process of catching up with the rest of Europe has been swift. Since its accession in 1986, the prosperity of Spain has advanced, when compared with the average level of all the EC countries, by at least one percentage point a year. It now stands

near the 80 per cent mark on the European ladder.

Spaniards have also learnt how to earn their keep by acquiring the skills of their new European trade. They have proved tough and successful negotiators in the corridors of European politics.

None more so than Carlos Westendorp, the Spanish minister for Europe, who spent his formative political years in Brussels as Spain's representative to the Community before and after the country's accession. Señor Westendorp was at Señor González's side at the Maastricht summit last December, when Spain persuaded the rest of the EC to accept, albeit only in principle, Madrid's plan for a Cohesion Fund.

It was a considerable coup for Spanish diplomacy to extract promises of cash from the richer members of the Community to help the poorer, in a sort of inter-state compensation fund not dissimilar to the one that operates within Spain itself.

Señor Westendorp claims that when it came to negotiating the fund, he took a leaf out of the British book. "In European affairs, we have learnt a lot from the United Kingdom negotiators," he says. "You have to have a strategic plan and follow it through. Two years ago we started trying to persuade our partners that 'cohesion' was necessary."

"At first we got a negative response, but we persevered and in the end we got, not everything we wanted, but a result."

For the time being, the Cohesion Fund is an empty box which has to be filled. However, whatever the amount finally settled upon over the next couple of months, as the EC haggles over the financial restructuring of its financial affairs, it is likely that Spain will receive 60 per cent of the new fund.

On its own, this will not be enough to overcome the economic challenges Spain still has to face, not only as the competition of the European single market begins to bite, but also as the country prepares for what Señor González calls its A-levels: the convergence criteria to be met by 1997 if it is to be a full participant in economic and monetary union.

Señor González is confident, however, that Spain is up to this new European challenge. "We are a country", he says, "with vitality and a capacity to grow." He predicts that with discipline Spain can bring inflation, currently at 6.8 per cent, under control, and that by 2000 it will be in the front rank of European nations.

F.S.



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مكتبة الإسكندرية

... while Jane Monahan explains public purse strings are to be tightened even more to bring down inflation and meet the EC's requirements

Axe hangs over spending

The Cortes, the Spanish parliament, have had before them this month a five-year convergence plan intended to prepare Spain for entry into the next phase of the European Community's economic and monetary union in 1997. This is a government priority, and the intention of Carlos Solchaga, the economy minister, is that the plan should be rigorously implemented.

In particular, he wants a drastic overhaul of public spending. This is considered vital if Spain is to take part in the EC's integration process as a member of the first league of member countries, on which Felipe González, the prime minister, is insisting.

One of the conditions for that is that the budget deficit must be brought down to no less than 3 per cent of gross national product. In 1991, it stood at 4 per cent, including spending by the regional governments.

Another voice calling for a curb on state spending has been Mariano Rubio, the governor of the Bank of Spain. Restrictive monetary policies, such as keeping interest rates high, cannot on their own reduce inflation, and the inflation rate also has to be brought down if Spain is to be in the EC's first league.

At the end of February there was an annual inflation rate of 6.8 per cent, and this needs to be reduced to 3 per cent if Spain's inflation is to match that of the EC's economically stable countries.

The causes of Spanish inflation are complex, as Señor

Solchaga and Señor Rubio are the first to admit. One reason is the continuation of monopolistic price practices in a range of services such as hotels and restaurants, house repairs and private teaching, all of which have stayed immune to competition. One of the goals of the convergence plan is that they should be liberalised.

Another factor is wage levels, and the government has recommended that pay rises should not exceed 6 per cent this year. This appears to have fallen on deaf ears, however, to judge by transport strikes in February in Madrid and Barcelona. A three-week strike by underground workers in Madrid ended only when the city hall agreed to pay rises of 8 per cent.

One measure intended to balance the budget better is the planned floating of between 10 and 20 per cent of the shares of such profitable state concerns as Repsol, the national oil company, and Endesa, the public electricity utility. The flotations will leave the state with a controlling, though not necessarily a majority, interest in the companies. The government will also make more of an effort to prevent tax fraud, which is still rife.

Señor Solchaga has ruled out increasing taxes as a way



The Seat works producing for Spain: economic growth remains high

of balancing the budget, however, so that the main focus of policy will be on a reform of public spending.

Spain has already had to limit state subsidies as a result of its EC membership. State aid is now restricted to a few loss-making companies that are vital for jobs because of where they are, or which are in crisis for structural reasons beyond the government's control. The loss-making companies are in steel, special

steels, shipbuilding, textiles and coal mining.

Even there, continued subsidies are conditional on thousands of job cuts. For example, 5,900 jobs are to be phased out at Hunosa, the state mining group in the Asturias, which now runs up the kind of annual losses that no government can support for long: 63 billion pesetas (£340 million) in 1990.

This restructuring of mines and of traditional in-

dustries will increase unemployment, especially as the economy as a whole has slowed down. The growth rate has dropped from the average of 5 per cent achieved from 1987 to 1990 to 2.5 per cent in 1991. The government has projected a rate of 3 per cent for this year. Unemployment rose in January for the fifth consecutive month, and the official rate for the country as a whole is now 15 per cent.

Despite the deceleration, however, Spain's economic growth remains one of the highest in the EC.

Several economists have doubts about the accuracy of the official unemployment figure, because of the black economy and moonlighting by social security recipients. It is small wonder, then, that another area in which Señor Solchaga is keen to reform public spending is unemployment benefits. This is not only to prevent fraud, but also to ensure that such money is used more productively.

He has proposed linking unemployment benefits to attendance at professional training programmes, which should be financed, at least in part, by the private sector.

The government is offering private companies a number of tax incentives to set up training programmes, and also to set aside resources for

investment in research and technology.

However, a recent report by the ministry of industry, based on a survey of Spanish companies in 19 sectors, found that practically no Spanish businesses used these incentives.

The report said that they had not used the opportunities presented by the five-year economic boom to invest in improvements in the quality of their products, in developing their distribution networks, or in increasing their sales abroad.

Instead, according to the report, Spanish companies continued putting their efforts into the domestic economy, seemingly unaware that the protectionism of the past was well and truly over in the rest of Europe.

The report also found that sales of technology products by Spanish companies abroad covered only 29 per cent of Spain's imports of technology in 1991, compared with an average coverage in such trade of between 60 and 90 per cent for Italy, Britain and France.

This was the principal reason, it said, why so many Spanish companies were sold to foreigners.

Another recent analysis of the economy, commissioned by Banco Bilbao Vizcaya, concludes that the only business with potential that will still be Spanish-controlled is opposed to being controlled by multinationals, when the EC's single European market begins next year, will be fruit and vegetables.



The Madrid catwalk: fashion in Spain has its own style

Dressing up at the double

Spanish fashion goes on show twice a year, even though it lacks the glamour of France and Italy

Spanish fashion may glimmer against the dazzling chic of Paris and Milan, but few countries can boast two major fashion shows. The Spanish kick off their fashion season with the Gaudi showing in Barcelona, and follow a week later with Cibeles in Madrid. However, tightening purse-strings and rivalry between Spain's two main cities have sparked a battle of the catwalks.

"Little by little the market for women's fashion has shifted towards Madrid, while that for men has stayed in Barcelona," says Teresa Martínez, of ICEX, the official export body, based in Madrid. In Barcelona the show is split into Gaudi Hombres for men and Gaudi Mujeres for women. Juan Canals, who heads Gaudi Mujeres, says there is room for Gaudi and Cibeles. "Each fashion show has its own public, its own designers."

Catalan designers tend to show at Gaudi and those from the rest of Spain at Cibeles. Both have their share of talent, but many in the fashion industry believe talent is not the decider. Cibeles receives three times more government funding than Gaudi Mujeres. As a result, the international buyers go to Cibeles, although for men's fashion they attend Gaudi Hombres. Barcelona remains defiant, however, reminding the world of its roots as the heart of the Spanish textile industry.

The bright lights of Spanish fashion have many different backgrounds. They include a former rock musician, a dancer, a motorcycle designer, and the daughter of an Argentine diplomat and a Polish count. These are unlikely beginnings for designers whose creations are paraded by leading models such as Linda Evangelista, but Spanish fashion for women emerged only with Madrid's cultural boom of the 1980s. In France's time, women would visit their modista, or dressmaker, clutching the latest Paris fashion pictures.

Even so, the designers feel left out in the cold. One designer says: "Madrid has thrown money at Cibeles, paying for designers to set up their shows and flying in buyers from around the world. But no attention has been paid to improving the fashion infrastructure." Many have linked up with international Italian or Japanese names to ensure quality manufacturing that meets sale order deadlines.

Antonio Miró, for instance, the long-established king of Barcelona fashion, who was once a member of a rock group, has joined forces with Ermenegildo Zegna, the Italian fashion house, for his men's collection, though his women's clothing is still produced in Spain.

Since opening Groc, his shop in the Rambla de Catalunya, in the late 1960s, Miró has gone from strength to strength. His women's designs use plain colours and

have a strong, masculine cut, with such intriguing details as a discreet slash from neck to midriff. He has also designed the uniforms for the opening ceremony of the Olympics.

Most Catalan designers arrived on the scene in the 1980s. Armand Basí, the clothing company, brought in Chu Onz, a 30-year-old former architecture and industrial design student, who has won prizes for his motorcycle designs. His graphic styles, worn by Madonna, are Spain's answer to London's street fashion. The message is: girls just want to have fun.

Lydia Delgado, a former dancer and photographer, is playing a different game. She has stayed small and at home. She shuns big financial backers who, she says, would "complicate her life", and operates from a small shop in a narrow street in a fashionable district of Barcelona. Her feminine variations of the "little black dress" are sold off the peg or made to measure in the tradition of the Spanish modista.

Cibeles's showpiece is the classic collection of Loewe, the Madrid fashion house that was set up in 1846 by a

German immigrant and now has 30 shops outside Spain. Adolfo Dominguez, who also shows at Cibeles, was one of the first Spanish designers to follow Loewe abroad. Like Roberto Verino, who sells his prêt-à-porter in El Corte Ingles, the department store, Dominguez comes from Galicia. His subdued colours verge on the sombre, reflecting the green countryside and grey clouds of his native region. His styles are safe — some say unadventurous, others practical and wearable.

For a rare slice of Mediterranean colour in Spanish fashion, Victoria y Lucchino (José Víctor Rodríguez Caro and José Luis Medina del Corral) find their inspiration in the fiery gypsy folklore of their native Andalusia, from where they make the twice-yearly trek to Cibeles. Their clothes sing of frills, mantilla lace and party spirit.

Not all Spanish designers have stayed at home. Sybilla, who is Spanish at heart, though born in New York and Argentine and Polish by birth, has moved into the Milan circuit after her link-up with Gibo, the Italian group whose star is Jean-Pierre Gaultier.

Sybilla, who trained with Yves Saint-Laurent in Paris, is seen as the most original of the Spanish designers. She has built up a fashion empire estimated at £1.5 million, and sells her designs in 140 shops around the world. She no longer shows in Spain, although she has kept her Madrid base.

As Europe's frontiers fall, and the big French and Italian names of fashion move into Spanish markets, all Spain's designers will have to look to their laurels.

GEORGINA POWER

Seville '92

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Peter Strafford looks at three cities steeped in history and tradition which will provide the stage for this year's celebrations

An operatic setting for world fair

Seville is said to be the setting for at least 17 operas, including *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Fidelio*, *The Barber of Seville* and *Carmen*. It is not hard to see why. The old centre of the city is a picturesque maze of narrow streets, with houses painted white and ochre, ironwork balconies, little squares with fountains and coloured tiles, and, everywhere, orange-trees. There is flamenco dancing in little bars.

Like other Andalusian cities, Seville was marked by the long Moorish presence in Spain. The Barrio de Santa Cruz, once the Jewish quarter, is flanked on one side by the huge Gothic cathedral, whose bell-tower, known as the Giralda, was originally the minaret of a Moorish mosque; and on another by the Alcázar, a fortress-palace which also dates back to Moorish times, but was rebuilt, in Moorish style, by Pedro the Cruel, King of Castile.

There could hardly be a greater contrast between this picture-book Spain, with its theatrical quality, and the ultra-modern world fair. Expo '92, which is about to open on its outskirts on April 20. But there were several reasons for holding the fair in Seville, and one of the strongest was its links with Christopher Columbus, and with the New World he discovered for Spain 500 years ago.

Columbus set sail on his first voyage to the New World from Palos, a small port west of Seville. He later worked on preparations for his third and fourth voyages at the Carthusian monastery, or Cartuja, of Santa María de las Cuevas on the outskirts of the city, and was buried there for a time. In the 16th century, during Spain's Golden Age, Seville grew rich on trade with the Americas.

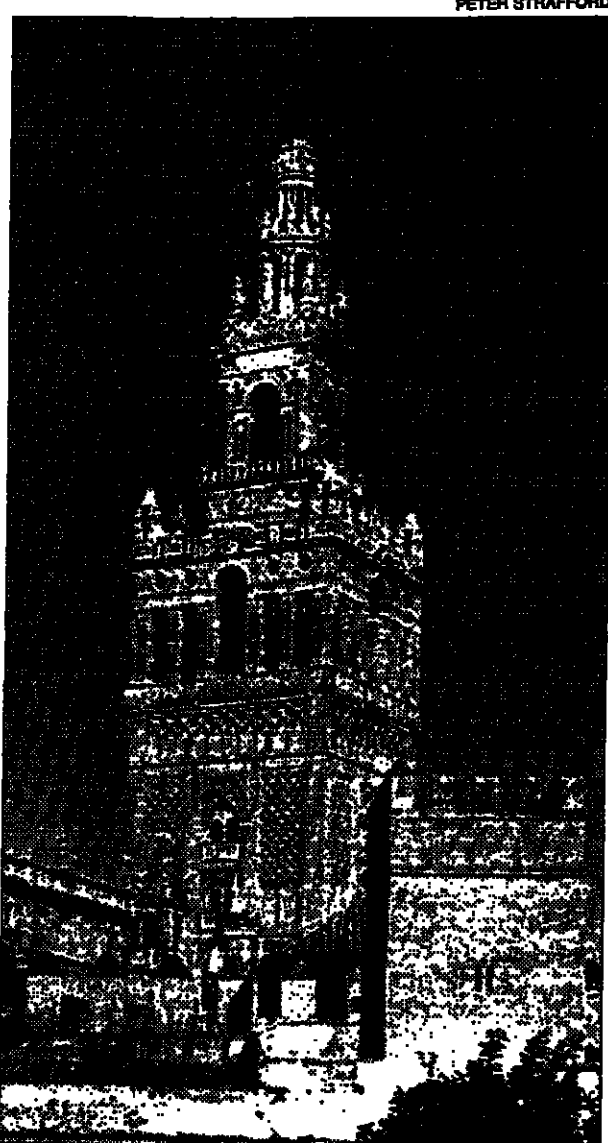
Expo is to be held, there-

fore, on the Isla de la Cartuja, a stretch of land which, until building started, had nothing on it but the monastery. The Cartuja itself, carefully restored, is to be its centrepiece, and King Juan Carlos will use it to entertain official guests.

Alongside will be the dazzling array of late 20th-century architecture with which contemporary Spain, together with 109 other countries, 23 international organizations and six international corporations, is promoting itself. Altogether there will be 95 pavilions. This is one less than originally planned because the Discoveries pavilion, put up by the Spanish organisers, burnt down last month, but it is still more than any previous exhibition of this kind.

Some of the best-known architects in the world been asked to design these buildings. The British pavilion, for instance, is by Nicholas Grimshaw. Fully-grown trees, shrubs and plants have been imported on to the site, and efforts have been made to temper the fierce sun of southern Spain by providing water, shade and, in the covered spaces, a flow of air. Overhead there will be cablecars that will give visitors a bird's-eye view of the site.

The Isla de la Cartuja is an artificial island, which lies between the old course of the Guadalquivir river, close to the centre of Seville, and a new course to which it was diverted some years ago to prevent flooding. Water flows along both, and seven new bridges, all built specially for the exhibition, now cross the Guadalquivir at various points. From Expo it is possible to look back across the river and see the Giralda towering over the old centre of Seville.



Inspiring sight: the Giralda, once the minaret of a mosque

There was also another, economic reason for the choice of Seville as the site of Expo. In recent centuries the city has come down in the world, like the rest of Andalusia, and the whole region was badly in need of an economic fillip. Expo has been used, therefore, both by Madrid and by the regional and city governments, as an opportunity to provide Seville and Andalusia generally with the communications and other facilities that they need.

The public works have been unending, but new roads have been constructed, new hotels built, and by virtue of the new bridges, and the removal of railway lines, run-down areas have been rejuvenated.

Seville has finally been given a theatre, the Teatro de la

Maestranza, at which opera can be performed.

Further afield, there are new motorways and dual carriageways, and the airport has a new terminal. Investments have been made in telecommunications. Most controversially, because it is regarded by many outside Andalusia as a waste of public money, a high-speed train is to run on special track between Seville and Madrid.

There are two main aims to provide Andalusia with the modern communications which it needs, to link it with other parts of Spain and the rest of Europe; and to draw attention to the advantages the region offers to foreign investors. After Expo is over, the Isla de la Cartuja will have a new role as a high-technology research centre.

Olympian pride in the future

There are some patriotic Catalans who claim that Barcelona, the historic capital of their region, is not just a rival of Madrid, but "capital of the Mediterranean". It is a buoyant and attractive city that has always claimed to be more European in its outlook than Madrid, and it has been a hive of activity — and disruptive roadworks — since it was chosen as the site for this year's Olympic Games, to be held from July 25 to August 9.

It has a new airport terminal designed by Ricardo Bofill, the Spanish architect, a new communications tower by Norman Foster of Britain, and a new system of ring roads. It even has a new strip of coastline, with beaches and a marina, that has been opened up by the removal of a railway line that used to cut the city off from the sea.

The Olympic Games have provided the motivating force for public works that were in any case needed if Barcelona was to modernise itself and compete in the European single market. But Joan Maragall, the mayor, says confidently that much would have been done even without the Games.

Barcelona is an old city, founded as *Barchino* by the Romans, which became a power throughout the Mediterranean in the 13th and 14th centuries. It prides itself on having its own language, Catalan, which was suppressed under the Franco dictatorship, but has flowered since democracy returned to Spain after Franco's death, and is now the first language.

The city has several different faces. In its centre it is a well-preserved and evocative medieval town whose Barri Gòtic, or Gothic quarter, has small squares and narrow streets lined with palaces and townhouses, elegant courtyards, and a cathedral and

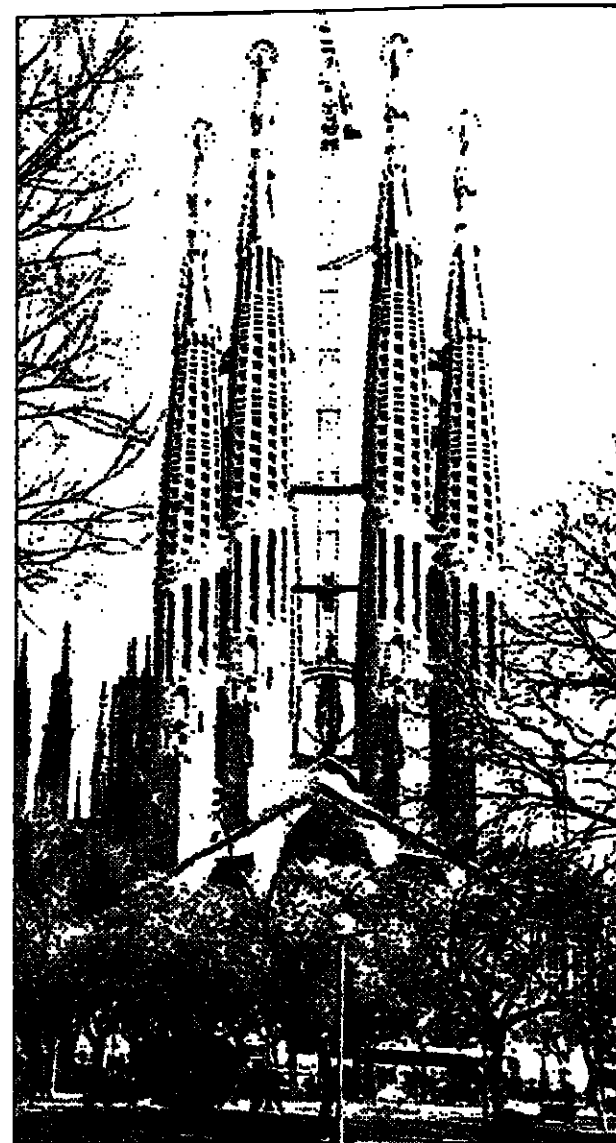
churches built in the distinctive Catalan Gothic style.

The ancient palace of the Generalitat, the government of Catalonia, and the equally imposing city hall confront each other across the Plaça Sant Jaume. In the current state of Catalan politics they are held by opposing parties. Jordi Pujol, who was recently re-elected premier of the region of Catalonia, heads *Convergència i Unió*, the moderate nationalist party, while *Señor Maragall* is a socialist, and normally they are at odds. But their differences have been put aside in the preparations for the Olympic Games.

Further out are the wide boulevards that were built when the city expanded in the 19th century, and that have many of the masterpieces built by Antoni Gaudí and other Catalan architects of the modernist movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries — most spectacularly, Gaudí's still unfinished church of the *Sagrada Família*, whose eight eccentric spires soar above the city.

On the edge of the Barri Gòtic, following the line of the old city wall, are the *Ramblas*, a broad street with trees, newspaper kiosks, flower stalls and the constant cheeping of small birds being offered for sale in cages, where the citizens of Barcelona like to stroll at all hours of the day and night.

Like Madrid, Barcelona has become an influential centre for the arts, fashion and design, with an internationally known opera house, the *Liceu*, in the *Ramblas*, and numerous concert halls, museums and art galleries. It has exceptional collections of both Romanesque and Gothic paintings from the great days of Catalonia, a museum



Final touches: the spires of Gaudí's Sagrada Família

devoted to Joan Miró, a Catalan, and a Picasso museum commemorating the fact that Picasso, though born in Malaga, spent much of his early life in Barcelona.

Economically, the city and its suburbs are the dominant economic force in Catalonia, one of the most industrialised regions in Spain, which prides itself on accounting for about 25 per cent of the Spanish economy, while having only 16 per cent of the population. Catalonia's economic strength has attracted immigrants from Andalusia, Galicia and other impoverished parts of Spain.

Señor Maragall has ambitious plans for Barcelona. He sees it as a key participant in a wider economic zone including north-eastern Spain and stretching across the Pyre-

nees to Toulouse and Montpellier in France.

The principal site for the Olympic Games will be Montjuïc, a hill that overlooks Barcelona from the south.

The main stadium, originally built for earlier games in 1929, has been extensively remodelled.

Other events will be held in a new sports hall designed by Arata Isozaki, the Japanese architect, and a new sports university designed by Bofill. Several other sites, in and around Barcelona, will also be used for different events. The Olympic village, where the athletes will stay, will be on the new coastal strip, with its own beaches, and after the Games are over the apartments will be sold as residential housing.

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The capital of the arts

Madrid, high up on Spain's central plateau, has recovered the position it once had as one of Europe's liveliest cities, with a reputation in the arts, fashion and design. As the Spanish capital, it was always an imposing city, with the Prado and numerous other museums, but in Franco's day Barcelona had a more active cultural life.

That changed in the 1980s, when Madrid was gripped by the *movida*, or cultural whirl, and exhibitions and shows of all sorts began to be held throughout the city. The great north-south avenue, which begins as the *Castellana*, runs past the Prado, and ends in what used to be the run-down *Atocha* district, became the focal point. Arco, a display of contemporary art by dealers from round the world, became an annual event.

This year Madrid is to be European cultural capital, in succession to Glasgow and Dublin, and all the stops are being pulled out. Altogether some 1,800 events are promised by the organisers, including picture exhibitions, theatre, music, dance, and even a "restaurant Olympic Games", in which there will be a competition between cooks from the various Spanish regions.

There will be a new museum, on city life in Madrid, a new theatre, a new open-air concert hall, and five new parks. Several old buildings will be refurbished, including the Panadería palace, which dominates the Plaza Mayor in the centre of old Madrid. Built in the 17th century, like the rest of the square, the palace is to be a cultural centre.

The main attraction, as always, will be the Prado, one of the great museums of the world, with its wealth, not just of Spanish painters — among them Velázquez, Goya, El Greco, Murillo and Zurbarán — but also of Italian, Flemish and Dutch masters. From May 30 to August 25 it will have a special exhibition of *José de Ribera*. The Prado is complemented by the Reina Sofía art centre, named after Queen Sofía, which was set up in 1983 in what had been Madrid's general hospital.

Built in the 18th century, this is a large, tall and solid building with vaulted rooms and corridors. It needed only



The Puerta de Toledo: one of the 1992 European cultural capital's attractions

the installation of lifts, which now shoot up and down transparent shafts on the outside of the building, to provide a roomy setting for contemporary art.

At any one time there may be as many as four or five simultaneous exhibitions under way, and the intention is to transfer the state collection of contemporary art to the Reina Sofía.

The other high spot, still not open, will be the collection of paintings which Baron Thyssen Bornemisza has agreed to transfer to Madrid. The Villahermosa palace, near the Prado, is being refurbished so that it can take the collection, and *madrilénos* pride themselves on the thought that this will make their city even more of a Mecca for an art-lover.

Madrid does not have the immediate charm of, say, Seville or Barcelona. But it has attractive parks, especial-

ly the Parque del Retiro, with its lakes, gardens and long, tree-lined walks. The old part of the city, around the Plaza Mayor, is an appealing warren of narrow streets lined with shops, *tapas* bars and restaurants, where life goes on late into the night in a crowded, intimate atmosphere.

Madrid was created almost from nothing to be Spain's national capital. In the early 16th century, when Toledo and Valladolid, Barcelona and Seville were all important cities, it was no more than a small town, dominated by an Alcázar, or fort, that had originally been built as a defence by the Moors.

It had the advantage, however, of being in the geographical centre of the country. So in 1561, when Philip II decided that he needed a fixed capital, instead of travelling from place to place as his predecessors

had done, he picked Madrid. There is still a metal plate, set into the pavement in the Puerta del Sol, marking the point from which all distances are measured.

In past centuries the Plaza Mayor became the setting for public festivities, and also for some of the grimmest scenes in Spanish history. Public executions took place in the square, and the Inquisition held its *autos da fe*, or trials, there. The burnings of those found guilty were carried out outside the then city walls, running along the line of the present-day Castellana avenue.

The Puerta del Sol, nearby, is the traditional centre of the city. It was the setting for the street fighting that took place between the citizens of Madrid and the occupying French troops on May 2, 1808, and was made famous by Goya's painting, now in the Prado.

Learning past cul

Remote heartland hides historic treasures

Far away from the crowded tourist resorts lies Extremadura, writes Peter Strafford.

The region is full of ancient towns that gave birth to the hardy adventurers who conquered the Americas for Spain

Spain has made a point in the last few years of trying to attract visitors away from the beaches and into its less-known interior. It is not possible to get much further from the coast than Extremadura, a region in the heart of the country that is still little developed and is full of echoes of Spain's tumultuous past.

Even the name of Extremadura has a remote and forbidding sound to it. It is one of Spain's poorest regions, lying on the border with Portugal, and this poverty brought it its main claim to fame. Many of the conquistadores, the men who crossed the Atlantic to conquer the Americas in the 16th century, were sent from the bleak conditions of Extremadura.

They took with them the toughness and rapacity they had acquired there earlier in the wars against the Moors.

Francisco Pizarro, the conqueror of Peru, came from the old town of Trujillo, and a statue of him on horseback dominates its main square. Opposite is a palatial townhouse built by his family, with Indians in chains decorating the eschutcheon.

Hernán Cortés, the conqueror of Mexico, also came from Extremadura, from Medellín, and so did Vasco Núñez de Balboa, who discovered the Pacific, and Francisco de Orellana, who first sailed down the Amazon.

Yet the region is not quite as rugged as it sounds. Its name is misleading, because Extremadura means no more than the land beyond the Duero, or Douro, river; the Christians gave it the name when they were pressing

down from the north in their long struggle to drive the Moors from the peninsula.

Extremadura forms part of Spain's central plateau and has rocky and mountainous areas, but much of it is flat farmland. It has two large rivers, the Tagus and the Guadiana, that flow through it.

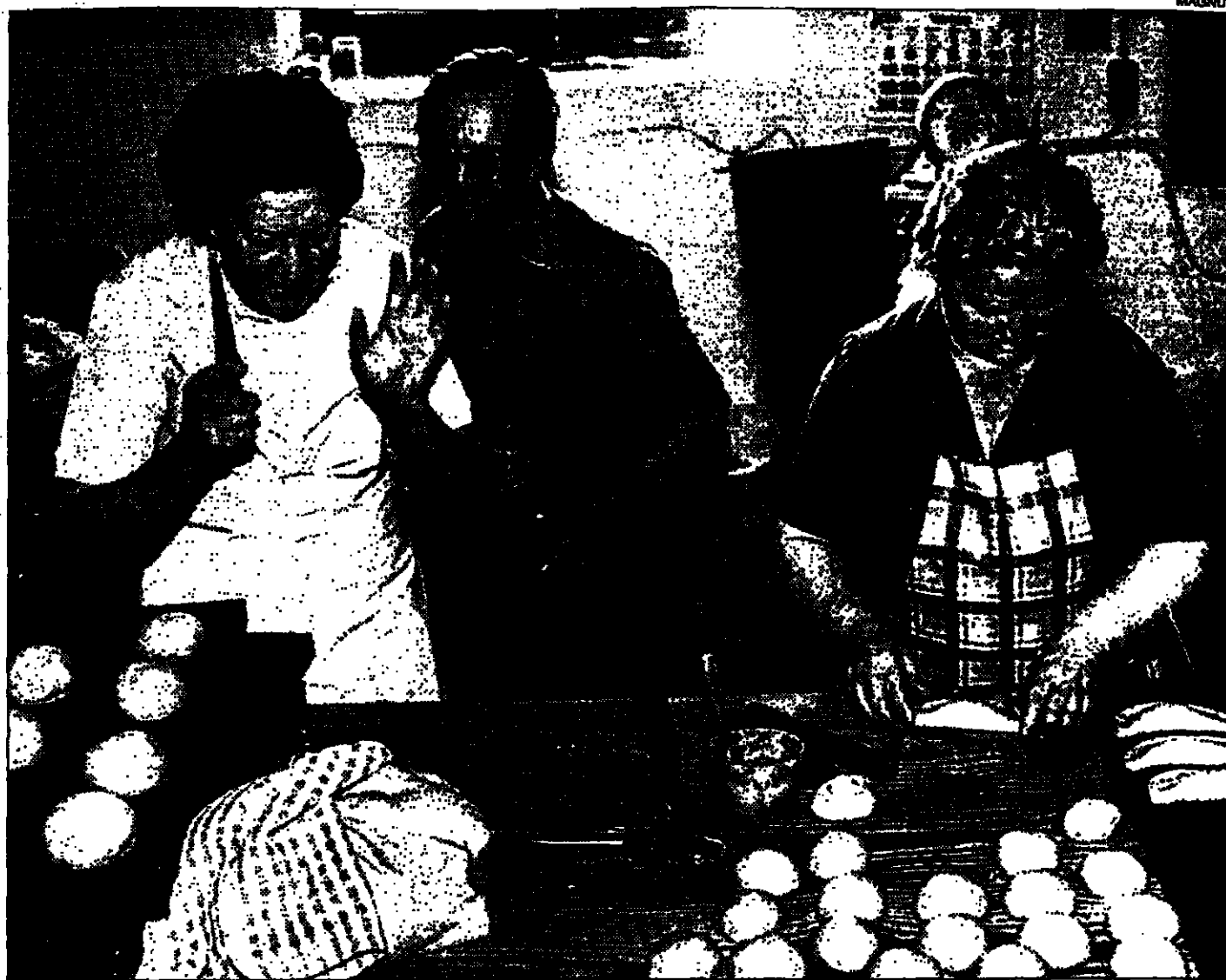
The region has one of the world's greatest concentrations of cork trees, which are the basis of a thriving local industry, while vineyards and olive-trees flourish in the south. Flocks of sheep browse on the grasslands and it is still possible to see a cart or a plough pulled by horses.

This archetypal Spanish region was first settled in pre-historic times, and later ruled successively by Romans, Visigoths and Moors. Its towns still carry the marks of this long and varied history.

Mérida is a good first stop for the visitor. It is now the seat of the regional government of Extremadura, and in its day was an important Roman metropolis. Founded by Augustus in 25 BC as Augusta Emerita, it was the capital of the province of Lusitania, which included modern Portugal and a chunk of Spain. Towards the end of the Roman period it became the capital of a "diocese" which included the whole Iberian peninsula and part of North Africa.

Today it is a small town with a picturesque, almost Andalusian, main square, and some of the best surviving Roman remains in Spain. There is a theatre, complete with a backdrop of marble columns, which is now the setting for a music festival, an arena nearby, and also a temple to Augustus.

A Roman bridge more than half



Birthplace of a conqueror: bakers in the old Extremadura town of Trujillo, where Francisco Pizarro, who overran Peru, was born

a mile long still strides across the Guadiana river, with a large Arab *alcazaba*, or fort, at one end. The towering columns of a Roman aqueduct, appropriately known as *Los Milagros*, the miracles, approach across a valley from another side.

Two Roman villas have decorative mosaics, and the newly-built, and imposing, National Museum of Roman Art has more, as well as the many other finds made in the area — statues, relief carvings, paintings and glass.

To the north is a different world, that of the conquistadores. The road is a former Roman trunk road, which the Arabs referred to as *balath*, or paved, and the

Christians corrupted to *plata*, so that it is now misleadingly known as the *Via de la plata*, or "silver road".

It leads to Cáceres, also a former Roman town, but now an evocative walled city with churches, monasteries, palaces and townhouses built with the proceeds of the conquests of the New World.

One of these houses, known as the Toledo-Mozcuzuma palace, was built by the Toledo family, a forebear of whom, Juan Cano de Saavedra, had married the daughter of Moctezuma, or Montezuma, the last Aztec emperor, and brought her back to Cáceres.

The old town of Cáceres has been named a World Heritage

City by Unesco. Within its walls, originally built by the Arabs, there is an astonishing complex of buildings constructed between the 15th and 18th centuries, largely in a golden-coloured stone which glows in the sunshine.

Not many of them are lived in, and that gives the narrow streets and irregular squares the appearance of a stage, or film, set. Elaborate coats of arms have been carved on the facades, sometimes on the outside corners.

Up above, wherever there is a church tower, storks have built their nests, and at the right times of year — in January, for example — the air is filled with the strange

clacking they make with their beaks when one of them flies down to meet its mate on a nest.

Not far from Cáceres is another survival, and an extraordinarily impressive one, of the Roman period: the Alcántara bridge that spans a gorge of the Tagus. Still in use, nearly 1,900 years after being built by the Emperor Trajan, it has a shrine at one end and a triumphal arch in the middle.

The conquistador theme is continued in Trujillo, a few miles in the other direction. It, too, was originally Roman, but the castle built by the Arabs and the towers of the conquistadores now dominate Trujillo's hilltop, visible from miles around.



The main square, the Plaza Mayor, has a dramatic quality, with the statue of Pizarro, imposing townhouses and the rugged church of San Martín. Up above stone walls still encircle the old town.

Like Cáceres, Trujillo is a town to wander around. There, too, many of the old townhouses, built in more prosperous times, are now empty, and there are vacant spaces around the large Arab castle on the crest of the hill.

The narrow, winding streets, with their stone doorways, recall the days when tough men from Extremadura set off for the hardships of the New World, and those who were successful made their fortunes.

Before going, many of them will have visited Guadalupe, now a picturesque little village in the mountains east of Trujillo, which is still dominated by the battlements and towers of its huge monastery.

Its name, originally given to a nearby stream by the Arabs, was taken across the Atlantic by Christopher Columbus, who passed it on to the Caribbean island now known as Guadeloupe.

The village's fame stems from the miraculous discovery of a statue of the Virgin Mary in 1300. Guadalupe became one of the main pilgrimage centres in Spain, and today the monastery is a treasure-house of paintings, manuscripts and embroidered vestments, presented to it over the centuries.

Its main doister and much of its decoration are *mudejar*, the style taken from the Arabs. The sacristy has one of the best series of paintings by Francisco de Zurbarán, the religious painter known for his many portraits of saints, who came from Extremadura. The paintings in Guadalupe were carried out especially for the monastery, and represent its outstanding priors.

Spain's Muslim and Jewish heritage is now recognised, writes James Woodall

That much of Spain's culture was Muslim and Jewish for almost 800 years may come as a surprise. It goes against the traditional images of the country's history: of Christian warriors and castles, El Cid, a reactionary Roman Catholic church, the Inquisition.

Yet 1492 was not only the year of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World. It was also the year of two other important events: the final defeat of Granada, the last Moorish kingdom in the peninsula, and the expulsion of the Jews from Spain.

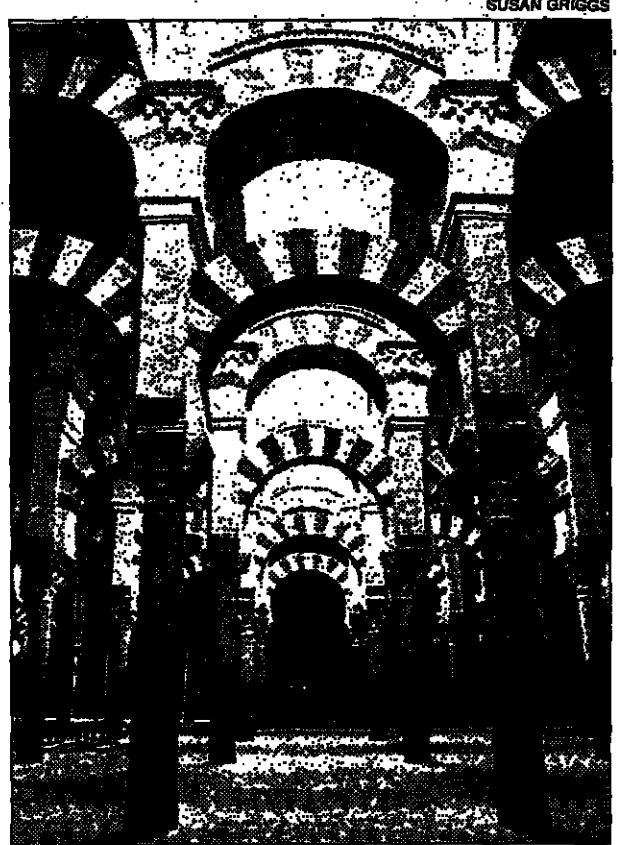
Both events are being commemorated this year, not in a spirit of triumph, but with a view to making amends for past intolerance.

The truth is that for centuries Spain showed an almost studied determination to learn nothing from its Muslim and Jewish heritage. Yet there was much to learn. The Muslims, who invaded the peninsula in 711, had by the end of the first millennium dug canals and irrigated the land, grown grapes and olives, and introduced rice, apricots, peaches, sugarcane, cotton and oranges to the peninsula. They also produced poets, mathematicians, musicians and astronomers, making Córdoba at one time the most civilised city in western Europe.

And they were master-builders. The great mosque of Córdoba, the Giralda tower in Seville and the Alhambra in Granada are reminders of their architectural talents, which continued to be an inspiration to architects even after the Christians completed their reconquest of Spain in 1492. Muslim designs and motifs are to be found in Christian buildings all over the peninsula, including churches and monasteries.

For the half-million Sephardim, as the Jews of Spain were known, 1492 was also a fatal year. They had been resident in Spain far longer, and were far more numerous, than the Muslims. There was an important Jewish community in Toledo. Under the Muslims the Jews played an important part in the city's affairs, and that continued after the Christian reconquest of Toledo in 1085, when the city became a cosmopolitan centre in which the three religions coexisted.

The expulsion edict of



Muslim reminder: the great mosque of Córdoba

Learning from past cultures

March 31, 1492, was royal legitimisation of long-entrenched anti-semitism. With the Muslims in Granada ejected from their last stronghold, Isabella and Ferdinand, the victorious Catholic Monarchs, turned their attention to the Jews.

All Sephardim were given the option of converting to Christianity if they wanted to stay in Spain, and many of them took it. But those who decided to remain lived their lives in fear of the Inquisition and its informers, which would seize on any hint that their conversion might not have been genuine.

Like the Muslims, the Jews were skilful builders, though less of their work remains. The two remarkable synagogues in Toledo, now known as El Tránsito and Santa María la Blanca, are the best known, though a smaller one in Córdoba is another jewel in the Sephardic crown.

Toledo was also the seat of the famous School of Translators, made up of Muslims, Jews and Christians, which had considerable impact on medieval European learning. Maimonides, the Jewish philosopher, published his *Guide for the Perplexed*, one of the great spiritual treatises of the medieval era, in Córdoba. Averroes, a Muslim thinker who attained English literary immortality at the end of the 14th century when Chaucer mentioned him in the Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales*, also lived in that city.

The achievements of the Muslims and Jews in Spain were broadly cultural, in scholarship, literature, music and architecture. The Jews, however, also made astute financial gains for the conquering Christian kings, while the Muslims had long been important traders.

The extent to which this

fertile land, in religious terms, mutually tolerant period has left its imprint on Spain is difficult to assess. It is indisputable that numerous Arabic words have filtered through to modern Spanish, while the religious rituals of Andalusia and flamenco, its folk music, owe something to the spirit of Islam.

But historians have been debating since the Fifties the respective merits of what can broadly be called the pro-Christian and pro-Judeo-Muslim tendencies.

The first was defined by Claudio Sánchez-Albornoz, whose view, supported by historians of his school to this day, was that the Muslim-Jewish strain in Spain's history was an irrelevance. Spain's destiny, he argued, was inextricably linked to the concept of unity under one crown and one creed. The 800-year-long campaign to achieve it was wholly necessary.

The opposing view, expounded by Americo Castro in *The Structure of Spanish History*, is that the only way to understand Spain is to acknowledge its many cultural and religious layers, Muslim, Jewish and Christian, and to accept the influence of all of them on the Spanish psyche.

Today Spaniards are more concerned, like other Europeans, with their prosperity, rights, education and health than with being singularly "Spanish", or with a distant Muslim or Jewish past. Both in the education system and in the media there is a lack of information about Muslim and Jewish Spain.

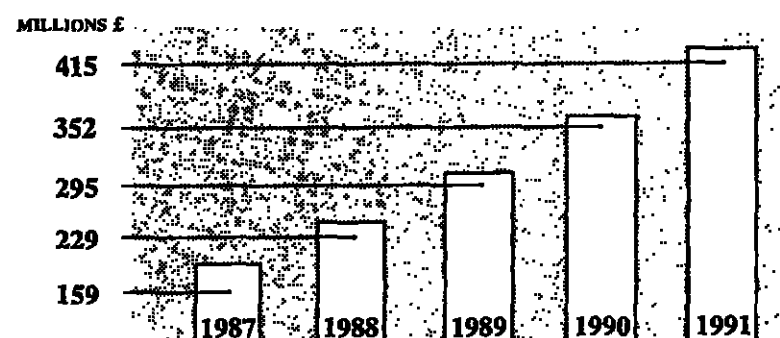
The hope is that the programmes planned for 1992 will provide pointers to that past.

"Al-Andalus 92, the Rediscovery of Arab Spain" will have its base in Granada. It will include exhibitions and scientific meetings on Muslim Spain, accompanied by moves to forge closer ties with the Muslim nations of North Africa.

"Sepharad 92" will be a parallel programme which will have Toledo as its capital. One proposal is to reestablish the School of Translators in the city.

Its most dramatic event, however, will be a formal disavowal by King Juan Carlos of the expulsion decree, to take place in a Madrid synagogue on March 31, 500 years to the day since the original order.

5 years compounded 27% annual growth net income



Consolidated financial highlights

Pounds	1991	(91/90)
Net income (in millions)	£ 415.0	17.9 %
Total assets (in millions)	32,180.0	8.9
Earnings per share	3.5	26.1
Dividend per share	1.3	11.6
ROE	20.34 %	
ROA	1.36	
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All change for the new digit

Only two years after London's telephone numbers were split, BT is planning another revolution, as Barry Fox reports

Anybody buying new telephone equipment, whether a company switchboard, private payphone or automatic fire or security system, should for many months now have been asking the sales staff some very important questions about future-proofing.

Anybody designing private or business stationery should be aware that it will need revision in two years' time. Likewise, anyone paying for signs on vans or premises should be leaving space for an addition.

Over the Easter weekend in 1994 all 30 million telephone numbers in the United Kingdom will change. Every number will grow by an extra "service" or S digit at the front, usually a 1. All stationery and signs will need to be changed, just as they had to be changed two years ago in London when the 01 code split into 071 and 081. Correct numbering really does matter. People dialling without the correct code initially heard a recorded announcement in London. That has now stopped. Incorrect dialling gets an unobtainable tone.

All telephone equipment with a memory, from office switchboards to domestic memory phones, fax machines, computer modems, automatic fire and burglar alarms and emergency helplines for the aged, will need re-programming. For security reasons, alarm systems are deliberately designed to resist re-programming by anybody other than an authorised engineer.

Anybody, anywhere in the world, with UK numbers stored in memory phones, fax machines or computer systems will have to re-program them. Most fax machines, for example, will interpret a recorded announcement as a failed call, and just keep on trying.

Arguably the most important repercussion of the change will be the need to modify, and in some cases replace, equipment that relies on the first few digits for vital functions.

Telephone numbering involves complex mathematics. Ofel took over theoretical responsibility for the job from BT in April 1990.

Although Ofel talks of the new, national change as being from nine to ten digits, the move is in reality from ten to 11 digit working. This is because, for national dialling, the long distance dialling prefix 0 must be added before the ten digits. Much office equipment relies on only the first four digits to control billing and call barring. Adding a fifth digit may cause problems, while some equipment may not be able to handle more than ten digits.

When the change was announced, Ofel, BT and Mercury all scorned industry fears that the cost to subscribers could be many billions of pounds. But none could point to any research on the true cost of the change, or on how much equipment will have to be replaced. "We won't know until it happens," says Alan Croft, BT's project manager for the national code change. Mercury says that it is



Line management: an extra digit is planned for Easter 1994, but how much will it cost industry?

investigating. Ovum, the consultants, estimate the total cost at about £1 billion, with most on stationery and only a small proportion on hardware.

Richard Cox, of Mandarin Technology, an independent telecommunications consultancy, has given a warning that all the software modern switchboard equipment relies on to route and bar calls will have to be re-written. The National Computing Centre believes that it could take months and cost up to £100,000 to modify a company's private network of 20 switchboards.

Mr Cox also says that "smart boxes", which automatically route long-distance calls via Mercury to save money, will need modification, which could disadvantage Mercury. All private payphones will also need modification because

they use the first four digits of the number to charge for calls.

To add to the confusion, the change is likely to be made in two stages, and nobody is sure yet who will be allocated the S-digits 2 to 9. BT has complained that some options would make a smooth changeover from ten to 11 digit working impossible. Some numbers would get the wrong calls.

This uncertainty also stymies equipment designers. BT is withdrawing one of its own private payphones, which will not work with 11-digit numbers and is looking at the modifications needed for the others it supplies.

Mr Cox believes that the change is avoidable, and that there are viable alternatives. He has conducted studies which suggest that

Britain is badly under-using the existing numbering systems. The way in which BT has divided Britain into urban and rural areas uses only 3 per cent of the thousand million numbers theoretically available.

France achieves efficiency of 16 per cent, the United States 17 per cent and Japan 6 per cent. Mr Cox estimates that if BT revised its existing system, simply by expanding areas with under-used codes, it could provide a further 200 million spare numbers, while still aligning with BT's policy of letting numbers give a rough idea of a subscriber's location.

That would be enough to take Britain through to the turn of the century, when the European Commission in Brussels plans to harmonize the European numbering, requiring yet another change.

ON LINE

Hi-def success

INVENTORS in America have shown a new type of high-definition television that they say has overcome one of the drawbacks of the current Japanese system.

The American Television Alliance transmitted its digital signal over a Washington TV channel. Though other HDTV systems, such as Japan's NHK system, produce similar film-quality pictures they require a special wide signal band to carry the information, something ordinary TV channels do not have.

The system uses digital encoding to squeeze huge amounts of information into the limited bandwidth designed in the 1930s for a squarish black-and-white image.

Looking up

MILITARY aviation technology is about to enter Grand Prix motor racing in the form of a high-technology helmet. GEC Avionics has made helmet-mounted displays for Team Lotus Formula One racing drivers Johnny Herbert and Mika Hakkinen to use in the 1992 season.

The data appears on the visor of the driver's helmet, just as information is given to pilots of fighter aircraft. The display allows the driver to monitor the car's performance without looking away from the track.

Making friends

NEARLY nine out of ten American electronics companies have formed alliances with rivals and friends to improve their ability to compete, according to a survey of chief executive officers. At the same time, the survey finds, companies are shifting their emphasis from innovation and keeping employee talent to product quality and customer service. The change comes as computer and electronics buyers seek machines that are easy to use, not just powerful.

In 1991, 73 per cent of the executives surveyed by Ernst & Young reported they were engaged in an alliance with another firm. In the 1992 survey of 455 top electronics executives, 89 per cent reported they had formed alliances.

Database move

MICROSOFT is to buy a small software developer that specialises in database programs, the one significant area in which the world's largest software company has no notable presence. Microsoft will pay about £100 million for the com-

pany, Fox Software, in a move that will put it in direct competition with Borland International, the top maker of database software for personal computers. Borland acquired rival Ashton-Tate last October for £260 million.

Printer challenge

APPLE Computer is to widen its market by selling laser printers for IBM-compatible personal computers. The £1,700 printer will be a direct challenge to printers produced by Hewlett-Packard, which dominates the market for printers compatible with IBM machines.

Apple has also modified a scanner, which can handle black and white images to work with IBM-type PCs.

Plane talking

CONTINENTAL Airlines is to install an air-to-ground telephone system in 78 of its planes from this summer. It will use GTE Airfone's Seatone system, which provides an air-to-ground telephone in each first-class seatback or centre console, and two or more phones in each row of economy.

Next year, the airline will begin to provide systems that give passengers not only the ability to make phone calls but also personal computer connections and data services at their seats. The system will also provide seat-to-seat calling.

Seeing double

PACIFIC Bell has formed an alliance with IBM and Northern Telecom to research and test technology that could lead to desktop teleconferencing. The companies said the multimedia applications could allow users simply to dial others on their personal computers, see each other and use a shared computer window to edit documents jointly.

Rocketing on

AUSTRALIA'S Optus group will continue with plans for China to launch its first telecommunications satellite, despite a failed attempt on Sunday when the American-made satellite was stranded on the launch pad by a rocket failure.

Chinese officials recovered the satellite, undamaged, from the Long March 2E rocket and Optus expects a further launch to be made in about three months.

The Chinese information ministry said the launch was hailed as part of failure measures after one of the eight engines on the rocket developed abnormal thrust. The satellite had been scheduled to join orbit with three that provide telecommunications facilities for Australia and New Zealand.

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LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY MARCH 27 1992



MOTORING
Going, going:
the Arthur
Daley image
of car auctions

If I should die, think only this of me

The celebration of death by the celebrants of life, such as the novelist Angela Carter, is a carefully considered affair



VALERIE GROVE

The friends of Angela Carter, the novelist who died last month, have received a pretty invitation for this Sunday morning. It is bright pink, opens up like a stage set with curtains, and shows animals, flowers and birds including a parrot with an RSVP in its beak. "Angela Carter," it says. "You are invited to a celebration of her life and works at the Ritzy Cinema..."

Some of the guests at the Ritzy may also have received invitations to celebrate the life of Sebastian Walker, the publisher of children's books who died last year, at a concert and supper at the Royal College of Music with the Albeni Quartet. The generous "Sebbie", who was only 48 when he died, always did give good parties.

These are not memorial services, but the contemporary equivalent, a "celebration of the life of" which is how we now try to relieve death of its sting, the grave of its victory. Friends do not care much for funerals, on the whole, but nobody minds going to a thanksgiving, which roots our uneasy diffidence about death.

Angela Carter died of cancer at the age of 51. There was a small, private funeral for her family. But a traditional memorial service was out of the question. "Any whiff of heaven," says Susannah Clapp, her literary executor, "would have gone down very badly with Angela." Instead, she decided, as the death approached, that she wanted her friends to gather in one of her favourite buildings — she suggested the Granada cinema. Tooting — to watch her favourite films.

She felt that London is divided, like England, into north and south, rich and poor; and she identified strongly with south London. She loved the kitsch glamour of the Granada: when she was a child it had a hall of mirrors and a cyclorama. But it is now a bingo hall, so the Ritzy at Brixton was picked instead (where they will soon show an Angela Carter season of the films she liked best). On Sunday there will be readings from her work; Tariq Ali will speak about her politics; and Michael Berkeley, the composer, will play the records she chose for her Desert Island Discs. She was due to record the programme with Sue Lawley, but was too ill to do so, in the last week of her life.

Why do we need these rituals, even the most atheistic among us? Because the commonplace crematorium service is too perfunctory, detached, almost a betrayal of the person — "a quarter of an hour, with a queue of other hearers waiting," as Canon John Oates, of St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street, says. His Wren church is London's fourth most popular venue for memorials after Westminster Abbey, St. Margaret's, and St. Paul's, and families, however irreligious their habits, come to him in bereavement, because they feel the need to mark the life that is lost, and his church is there for people when they need it. He takes care to find the appropriate songs for the choir to sing, no matter how secular. "Wasn't there anything he used to sing or whistle around the house?" he asked one man's family. Yes, he was told, he was a fanatical West Ham supporter: so the choir sang "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles". "The right song can be such an echo of the person," he says. "It is a tremendously therapeutic thing."

So those who gather may hear calypso bands, jazz quartets, bagpipes, torch songs: the choir will sing "Bridge Over Troubled Water", "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes", a medley from *Phantom of the Opera*, the "Skye Boat Song", if necessary, along with the more predictable "Crimond". Canon Oates sees these thanksgivings as "a celebration of life,



CLIVE BARDA

"Any whiff of heaven, would have gone down very badly": Instead, Angela Carter decided to invite her closest friends to her favourite cinema to watch her favourite films. But the cinema was no more

part of God's creation, and an opportunity to meditate on the mortality of all of us, because the one unalterable fact of life is death." Even the agnostic may be struck by a sense of belonging to a church when the time comes. The late George Gale spoke at a friend's memorial at St. Bride's. "You may find it odd to hear a rogue like me talking about a church when the time comes," he said, "but we feel we belong here." A few months later, George was being celebrated there himself, with "Where Have All the Flowers Gone" sung by the choir to reflect his opposition to the Gulf war. Sam White, the *Evening Standard's* Paris correspondent since 1945, who died in 1988, was a Melbourne-born Jew, but his St. Bride's memorial was perfectly appropriate. Apart from an excellent address by Lady Soames, there was a hauntingly slow rendering of "I Love Paris" and at the end everyone sang "Walking Matilda" and left feeling rather jolly.

Fearful of funerals, colleagues and friends feel they can comfortably gather at such a thanksgiving, by which time laughter is permitted, even necessary. There is no clerical objection to laughter in church, and people remember best the addresses that made them laugh. Michael Frayn is a master of this delicate art. Services which have only lawning exordia of *Nil nisi bonum* are unconvincing. Fenella Fielding recalls that the dancer John Gillep's memorial seemed to consist of unrelieved adulation until Evelyn Laye swept up to the lectern and told an immensely long story at the end of which Gillep had bought her a face-pack with the withering remark: "Anyway, Boo dear, you need it." At which point the congregation felt like applauding.

At Bertice Reading's memorial they were unabashed and did applaud each piece, as if it were just another show.

There is consolation in favourite hymns and songs (sometimes it

seems almost obligatory to include "Jerusalem", "Lord of the Dance", "Amazing Grace", "Fear no More the Heat of the Sun", or "The Battle Hymn of the Republic") and in familiar lines of poetry and prose. Vicars may become a trifle weary, as I am, of hearing the ubiquitous Henry Scott Holland lines: "Death is nothing at all. I have only slipped away into the next room... Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together... What is this death but a negligible accident?... I am but waiting for you for an interval, somewhere very near just around the corner... all is well", which are often horribly inappro-

"The right song can be such an echo of the person. It is a tremendously therapeutic thing"

site. But it does no harm to think about what might be apposite — "To everything there is a season..." from Ecclesiastes; De La Mare's "Look thy last on all things lovely, every hour..." Amelia Johnson Burr's "Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die"; Christina Rossetti's "When I am dead" ("Sing no sad songs for me") or "Better by far you should forget and smile/Than that you should remember and be sad".

As a nation we do not honour our dead ceremonially, with exceptions like the funerals of Churchill and Mountbatten, each meticulously planned by the dead men themselves — in Churchill's case down to the last gun-carriage, and in Mountbatten's with the piquant addition of the televised obituary he prepared of himself in advance. Dead poets and novelists can pack a cathedral (Graham Greene, Sir John Betjeman) but Auberon Waugh claims that even a middle-brow French writer gets a more

flamboyant adieu: he once saw gilt-caparisoned chevaliers parading down the Avenue Victor Hugo, closed to traffic, for the funeral of Marcel Pagnol.

Actors fare better, and the theatrical memorial service achieved its apotheosis with the televised one for Lord Olivier at Westminster Abbey in 1989, which included recordings of his own voice, so that the Agincourt speech from *Henry V* preceded the "Te Deum Laudamus".

A pageant of this magnitude needs a director, in this case Patrick Garland: "Imagine a show with Gielgud, Guinness, Mills, Fairbanks, Jacobi, Caine, Scofield, Finney, O'Toole, Peggy Ashcroft, Maggie Smith, Dorothy Tutin, a capacity house of 2,000 and no rehearsal

They could have filled the seats five times over, and the starry cast was as nervous as if Larry might be listening. Sir John Mills was to have read something sombre and liturgical, but rang Garland to say that his friendship with Larry had been based on jokes, often rather coarse. He'd be able to hear Larry's voice saying, "Come off it, old cock..." so he was given 1 Corinthians 13 instead.

In a more minor key, there was a thanksgiving for Sir John Betjeman, held a month after his huge Westminster Abbey memorial, in Cornwall, where he had died and was buried. The service at St. Endellion (whose very name "is like a ring of bells") was free of pomp, full of laughter, and followed by tea on the vicarage lawn. In the same church later, John Armitage recited "How to get on in society" ("Phone for the fish-knives, Norman") and James Morell singing a musical version of Joan Hunter Dunn. He would have liked that.

Elderly people measure out their lives in the memorials of friends, relieved that it is not yet their turn. "Haven't seen you for a

long time," Sir William van Straubenzee said the other day to a Tory MP, who replied: "Well, we haven't had any memorial services to go to." The parties are, like Irish wakes, often more lavish than anything in the departed lifetime. The party at the Reform Club after the service for the much-eulogised reporter David Blundy, killed in San Salvador at the age of 44, was so enjoyable that Hunter Davies decided to change his will to leave money for just such a party when he goes.

Carmen Callil, Angela Carter's publisher, has put a codicil in her will for a grand hooley. Sir Robin Day is thinking of surprising everyone with a pre-recorded tape saying "Good morning! How very kind of you all to come", and inviting mourners to repair to the Garrick for champagne. As a final gesture, the late Jill Bennett left specific instructions: her coffin was not to slide through those doors, which upsets people (instead it remained in place while the guests filed out to "I Left My Heart in San Francisco") and cases of champagne were to wait at her house, which nobody was to leave until the last bottle was finished.

Others do not care for these insouciant approaches to their departure. Paul Johnson has told his wife he does not want any of this celebration nonsense. "I want a straightforward requiem mass, in Latin, with plainchant and the 'Dies Irae', the greatest of all medieval poems. If one is leaving this life and going into the unknown, the Catholic church knows how to conduct the proceedings with dignity and majesty."

"I think the address should be solemn and awesome, because death is a terrible thing. Someone has gone, we know not whither, and that should be the keynote. If people have celebrations in cinemas, that is different, they can make their own rules; but once in a church it is by nature religious, if not in content then in tone." In a way one pities the atheists, because granted their beliefs, death is annihilation. For Christians it is a new beginning, glorious as well as dreadful.

I recall a secular gathering for another writer, Anne Sharpley, called Remembering Anne, held in a sunny room overlooking the Thames. Pieces of her work were read out, her Desert Island Discs were played, and money was collected to build a sun-dial in her name, a cheering memorial. A poem by Edna St Vincent Millay was included because it struck a note of dismay about death, the last line reading "But I do not approve. And I am not resigned." Agnostics need not go gentle into that good night. Even militant agnostics, however, sometimes relax their objections to the spiritual when they hear a beautiful rendering of the Magnificat, the Nunc Dimittis, Ave Maria or Jesu Piu

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TOMORROW
Where have the flowers gone?

WU GUANZHONG a twentieth-century Chinese painter



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In death, as in life: Corinna Thurgood's invitation to the celebration of the life of Angela Carter

THEATRE

Period piece proves timeless

The Dark River
Orange Tree, Richmond



MARILYN KINGWILL

FIFTY-odd years after the first production of this play, it seems odd that it could have earned Rodney Ackland the sobriquet, "the English Chekhov". The characters may be a ruminate, retrospective lot, and may be stagnating in a vaguely Russian way in what the programme dolefully describes as "an old house on a backwater of the Thames". But Ackland tends to hammer where the master would have hinted, and relies too much on coincidence and other Chekhovian chicanery. On the whole, *The Dark River* is to *The Three Sisters* what, well, the Grand Union Canal is to Old Father Thames in full flow.

Still, Ackland was not responsible for the more high-falootin claims made on his behalf. Nor are there so many plays of the Thirties clamouring for revival that we can blithely write off one that, despite its repetitions, remains as absorbing as this. Catherine Lisle may spend a good 20 minutes too long dithering between the claims of the unfaithful husband who wants her to go on playing Wendy to his Peter Pan and the combative demands of the unsmiling architect with the fierce political conscience; but at least her choice matters, at least it means something.

What it means, of course, is that the past is battling with the future for possession of her heart and mind. Chris, the husband, rabbits on about the good times he had as a boy with his mother, and seems impervious to what is happening in the world outside. Alan, her architect lover, is monitoring the Spanish Civil War

with foreboding, and trying to interest democratic governments in the air-raid shelters he is convinced will be needed. Offstage guns, planes and even a riot reinforce his argument and Ackland's point. The world of 1937 is preparing for war. Only moral cowards and the frivolous are ignoring the warning signs.

This category does not only include John Hudson's affably ineffectual Chris. Liz Crowther plays Catherine's spoiled chum Gwen, cadging cigarettes and hankering for the gay days she can no longer afford: a nice study of a bright young thing tarnished by time and selfish living. There is also Stephanie Cole as Ella, Catherine's ex-schoolmistress: all tweed and positive thinking at first, and then, after grief for a dead son has converted her to spiritualism, the evening's saddest example of the perils of getting trapped in the past.

At the centre of Sam Walters' production are Malcolm Sinclair, a more passionate, less priggish Alan than the script threatened, and Belinda Lang as Catherine. I don't see why the latter adopts the sort of staccato whimper made familiar by *Brief Encounter*; but her sensitivity and, finally, her power are not in doubt. There are places where the play transcends its time. Even with that period voice, she is one of them.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE Wife and lover: Belinda Lang (Catherine) and Malcolm Sinclair (Alan)

DANCE

Brave exploration

Dark Horizons
Sadler's Wells

blends ballet with primitive movement: classical jumps are juxtaposed with two-footed crouching bounds; a beautiful *penché arabesque* for Joseph Cipolla is given a fresh twist by a hand stretched outwards in supplication. By the end the vocabulary looks less a patchwork than a valid exploration into uncharted territory.

In fact, as his first piece last year suggested, Hindle is an intelligent young man to watch. He can form a clear structure, create powerful groupings, fluently communicate ideas through an abstract mode of presentation. Starting with proud strutting walks, his warriors perform dances in which the gradual disintegration of their civilisation is depicted.

Michael O'Hare has an anxious

stalking solo. Cipolla a slow sorrowing one; in an insistent linear image the dancers' fists become tied behind their backs. Beyond them are Peter Farley's flat Grand Canyon rocks and a sun that symbolically rises and sinks.

The cast gives plenty of commitment, although more vigour would be welcome, the excellent Cipolla excepted. The gentle aura of the opening *Les Sylphides* extended through the evening. In the closing *Five Tangos*, gentleness became gentility and van Manen's darkly glittering choreography was transmogrified into blandness.

NADINE MEISNER

2 ARTS

RAFAEL REDISCOVERED: The painting known as *The Madonna with the Pile* was bought as a genuine Raphael in Victorian times by the Duke of Northumberland, but fell under scholarly disapproval and was demoted to the status of an early copy. As such it hung obscure and unregarded at Alnwick Castle until Nicholas Penny of the National Gallery looked again and realised it was the long lost original. The present Duke has lent it to the National Gallery where it hangs with two of the gallery's own early Raphael for companion unit Sunday.

National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-839 3321), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm.

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The orchestra performs a bold programme which includes the British premiere of Edward Elgar's *Huata Longina*. There is also Nielsen's Fifth Symphony, the one with the dramatic and terrifying snare-drum solo, and Brahms's Violin Concerto, with Christine Telford.

Andrew Davis conducts, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-636 8891), tonight, 7.45pm.

EMERSON STRING QUARTET: The American string quartet plays Schubert, Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Britten (Third Quartet).

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-672 8800), tonight, 7.45pm.

ULSTER ORCHESTRA: Van Pasael Toller conducts the orchestra in a lovely programme beginning with Mendelssohn's *Tragic Overture* (with the women's voices of the Ulster Renaissance Singers) and closing with Berlioz's *Harold in Italy*.

Ulster Hall, Belfast (0232 233240), tonight, 7.45pm.

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Strong performances in Tony Harrison's long but vigorous drama. Also, religion, politics, everything.

National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (01-628 2552), tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, sat, tomorrow, 2.30pm, 2.10pm.

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nightspot: high on energy, low on story truthness.

Adelphi, W.C. (01-836 8404), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mat, 2.30pm, Sun, 4pm, 15mins.

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA: Brian Friel's Olivier Award-winning mystery play, set in Thirsk, Cornwall.

Clifford, Charing Cross, W.C. (01-494 5035), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, 2.30pm, Sun, 4pm, 15mins.

DEATH AND THE CHAISE: John Stevenson, Michael Byrne, Bill Paterson superb in Avel Dorfman's modern political drama. Best play of 1991.

Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, W.C. (01-836 5122), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 15mins.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINEKER: Sometimes drink is at the heart of a woman married to a soccer nut.

Duchess, Catherine Street, W.C. (01-494 5035), Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.45pm, 15mins.

GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE: Satisfying musical celebrating Fifties and Sixties pop classics.

Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, W.C. (01-836 4401), Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, 8.30pm, Sat, 8.30pm, 15mins.

HEARTBREAK HOUSE: Paul Scofield and Vanessa Redgrave head Trevor Nunn's splendid cast in Shaw's timeless, state-of-the-art drama.

Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (01-930 8800), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 22mins.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW: Nicholas Lyndhurst, Neil Dugdale and

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

BBC PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: Robin Holloway's new Violin Concerto is given its first performance by the BBC Philharmonic under conductor Jeremy Maskmyle, with the undoubted Enko Kovacic as soloist. The programme is completed with music by Revell, Debussy and Faure. The concert gives a pre-concert talk at 6.30pm.

Royal Northern College of Music, 134 Ainslie Street, Manchester (01-627 4504/5594), tonight, 7.30pm.

THE JUDAS TREE: Despite its title, Kenneth MacMillan's newest ballet is neither Biblical nor religious but it is about a man betraying his best friend. Choreographed for 14 men and one woman from the Royal Ballet, *The Judas Tree* includes two dances, one set and a hanging in the space of 40 minutes. The commissioned score is by Brian Elias. Also on the same night bill are two fine Balanchine works: *Stravinsky Violin Concerto* and *Symphony in C*. Last performance this season.

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1086), tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm.

DIVERSIONS DANCE COMPANY: This Cardiff-based group presents the London premiere of Bill T. Jones' *History of Collage*, featuring Jones' first original work for a British dance company. Also, politics and fashion all feature among the images in the

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current London theatre

■ **HOUSE FULL, returns only**
■ **Some seats available**
■ **Seats at all prices**

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III: Nigel Hawthorne is very fine as a stickler king, but as a whole, Alan Bennett's play does not quite work.

National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-628 2552), tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat, tomorrow, 2.15pm, 17mins.

MOBY DICK: A girl's school puts on a headmistress playing Captain Ahab. Beaches musical.

St Paul's, St Paul's Church, W1 (01-967 1115), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, 4pm, 15mins.

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA: A classic of the old thriller: tune by Offenbach, Verdi and Weber but not Lloyd Webber.

St Martin's, St Martin's Lane, W.C. (01-836 5122), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 15mins.

THE POETIC DREAM: Foully beautiful of a madman's dream.

St Paul's, St Paul's Church, W1 (01-967 1115), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, 4pm, 15mins.

SOME LIKE IT HOT: But what we get is a version of the classic in poor material version of it.

Princess Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (01-754 8851), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat, Thurs, Sat, 3pm, 16mins.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW: Nicholas Lyndhurst, Neil Dugdale and

THEATRE GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol \otimes) on release across the country

complete an abandoned canvas. Close to a masterpiece, with Michael Piccoli, *Shogun* (1980) (1981) (1982) (1983) (1984) (1985) (1986) (1987) (1988) (1989) (1990) (1991) (1992) (1993) (1994) (1995) (1996) (1997) (1998) (1999) (2000) (2001) (2002) (2003) (2004) (2005) (2006) (2007) (2008) (2009) (2010) (2011) (2012) (2013) (2014) (2015) (2016) (2017) (2018) (2019) (2020) (2021) (2022) (2023) (2024) (2025) (2026) (2027) (2028) (2029) (2030) (2031) (2032) (2033) (2034) (2035) (2036) (2037) (2038) (2039) (2040) (2041) (2042) (2043) (2044) (2045) (2046) (2047) (2048) (2049) (2050) (2051) (2052) (2053) (2054) (2055) (2056) (2057) (2058) (2059) (2060) (2061) (2062) (2063) (2064) (2065) (2066) (2067) (2068) (2069) (2070) (2071) (2072) (2073) (2074) (2075) (2076) (2077) (2078) (2079) (2080) (2081) (2082) (2083) (2084) (2085) (2086) (2087) (2088) (2089) (2090) (2091) (2092) (2093) (2094) (2095) (2096) (2097) (2098) (2099) (2100) (2101) (2102) (2103) (2104) (2105) (2106) (2107) (2108) (2109) (2110) (2111) (2112) (2113) (2114) 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London Galleries: Rembrandt and an Alexander Calder retrospective, reviewed by Richard Cork

Rembrandt triumphs in all his moods

However zealously the scholars may probe, x-ray and analyse in their tireless attempts to arrive at the "real" Rembrandt, the artist himself evades neat classification. His National Gallery retrospective opens at a time when the exposing of false attributions has become even more controversial. This spare selection of just 51 genuine paintings reflects the new image of the artist, purged of all fatty deposits. But anyone imagining that the lean Rembrandt will be any less complex is in for a surprise.

If any of the paintings assembled on the warm brown walls of the Sainsbury Wing seem even more mysterious and awesome than they did on their previous stage of the tour in Amsterdam, did any other artist encompass a greater range, or develop so far from ostentatious youth to profound old age? Surely not, and the gulf in handling between his earliest and final paintings could hardly be more immense. For the youthful Rembrandt worked on a surprisingly small scale and lavished on every millimetre a miniaturist's infatuation with detail. This is utterly removed from the summarising roughness of his last years.

Already, however, certain lifelong preoccupations give these little Leiden pictures their latent power. In a dramatically candlelit painting of a *Rich Man*, Rembrandt heaves the outer areas with an extravagant abundance of led-

gers and tally-sheets. At the age of 21, Rembrandt allows his innate flamboyance to give this proliferating still life a manic exuberance.

On the next wall, by contrast, an equally strong need to explore contemplative stillness becomes apparent. Seated at a writing desk, the white-bearded St Paul pauses from his labours and stares downwards. And one of Rembrandt's finest early achievements, *Jeremiah lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem*, minimises the spectacle of the burning city in favour of an ageing patriarch slumped in thought.

Not that Rembrandt could suppress his theatricality for long. One of the first canvases he painted after his move to Amsterdam was a towering image of a man in oriental dress. This exotic potentate seems overblown compared with Jeremiah or St Paul. He is a fancy-dress concoction, issuing from the side of Rembrandt's imagination which also led him to paint a self-portrait dressed in a soldier's gleaming gorget. This is a man arrayed for combat, determined to conquer Dutch art as swiftly as possible.

He succeeded, and during the 1630s his art flowered with astonishing versatility. He was capable of the jostling turbulence of *Ecco Homo*, a small monochrome oil on paper where the handling varies from encrusted elaboration to a sketch-like fluidity worthy of Daumier. But he was just as ready to transform

his wife Saskia into a stately and gorgeously bedizen embodiment of Flora.

In a wide-screen, alarmingly tilted tableau of *Belshazzar's Feast*, the turbaned oriental reappears in an even more shamelessly over-ripe costume. This time, though, he gazes wild-eyed at the fateful words written on the wall, and raises his arm to fend off the threat. Goblets spill wine and full-breasted women reel.

A year after that sumptuous show-stopper, Rembrandt brandished his self-satisfaction in an ebullient half-length called *The Standard-Bearer*. Sporting a fanciful outfit, with slashed breast beplumed, the swaggering artist thrusts his leg-of-mutton sleeve out at us in a gesture of bravado.

At the same, Rembrandt's blatant emphasis on role-playing is tantamount to an admission that *The Standard-Bearer* is only a pose. In another mood, he was able to invest a portrait of an 83-year-old woman with an extraordinary amount of insight. Unflattering enough to define the sister's bulbous nose, as well as every sag and wrinkle in her brittle skin, this mesmeric head is also invested with immense compassion.

But nothing can prepare us for the startling intimacy of *A Young Woman in Bed*. The 39-year-old Rembrandt was prepared to cast decorum aside and close on a semi-naked figure rising from plumped-up pillows. In her



Startling intimacy: *A Young Woman in Bed*, circa 1645, by Rembrandt, from the National Gallery of Scotland

eagerness to greet an unseen husband or lover, she sweeps back the curtain with an impulsive gesture.

The greatest of his female nudes, however, comes almost a decade later in the Louvre's *Bathsheba with King David's Letter*. All the gaudiness and gesticulation have dropped away. Here is a woman caught between obeying her king and remaining faithful to her hus-

band. David's seductive message hangs from her fingers, and she gazes down even more pensively than St Paul a quarter of a century before. The introspection is countered by Rembrandt's robust handling of her body. *Bathsheba* is perhaps the most complex and convincing depiction of a naked woman in European art.

The finest of the late works

here is the group portrait of "Staalmeesters", of the Amsterdam Drapers' Guild. No theatricality disturbs the sober row of black-suited figures, but Rembrandt charges them with a sense of hushed expectancy. Installed in the panelling on the right is an image of burning beacons, and one historian has related it to a 17th-century motto declaring: "Let thy light shine forth

amongst men." The same words could be applied to the elderly Rembrandt himself, whose own understanding illuminates even the most shadowy and unknown regions of mortal existence.

Rembrandt paintings and etchings at the National Gallery (071-339 1740) until May 24. Rembrandt drawings are also at the British Museum (071-636 1555) until August 4.

GALLERIES: CRITIC'S CHOICE
JOCK McFADYEN: McFadyen's latest show contains a number of designs for Kenneth MacMillan's new ballet, *The Judas Tree*, at Covent Garden. Most of the other paintings feature the themes of casual, urban sex and violence, with a few of his terrible killer dogs thrown in. But they are painted with the utmost finesse; and, charmingly, there is something oddly innocuous about the most directly sexual.

William Jackson Gallery, 28 Cork Street, W1 (071-287 2121), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until April 11. There is also a show of paintings, works on paper and prints from 1980-86 at Blond Fine Art, Unit 10 Canalside Studios, 2-4 Orsmann Road, N1 (071-739 4383) Wed-Sun 11am-6pm, until April 12.

LIKE NOTHING ELSE IN TENNESSEE: Many sculptors and painters incorporate or refer to architecture in their work. The use of architectural motifs or the making of architecture in miniature gives rise to lively as well as deadly art. This show leaves out now established figures such as the Poiriers, Charles Simmonds and Ben Johnson, and instead introduces some younger artists virtually unknown in Britain, alongside our own Julian Opie and Dan Graham.

Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (071-402 6075). Daily, 10am-6pm. Until April 26.

DANCE OF DEATH: The first world war led many artists to return to and develop the traditional iconography of the Dance of Death. This selection from the Imperial War Museum's collections includes the Italian symbolist Alberto Martini, German fantasist Thomas Theodor Heine and Dutch cartoonist Louis Raemaekers, and is part of the South Bank's "Towards the Millennium" festival.

Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 3002). Daily, 10am-10pm, until April 12.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Encore for a genial revolutionary

Like a zestful ring-master at a circus, Alexander Calder could not resist making his sculpture perform nimble and crowd-delighting feats. The mobiles he devised for the purpose have since become so familiar that his audacity is often taken for granted. But during the inter-war years Calder was a genial revolutionary, and the Royal Academy's succinct survey provides an ideal introduction to his achievement.

Up in the airy, light-filled Sackler Galleries, a row of academic statues line the foyer. They neatly summarise the tradition against which Calder rebelled. Solid, sombre and earthbound, they stand on their plinths without a hint of humour. But Calder, whose ancestors had been successful academic sculptors in Pennsylvania, was a subversive young

man. Trained initially as a mechanical engineer, he looked at tradition with an outsider's impatience.

The conventional solidity of sculpture is questioned even in his earliest carvings, where two cats lying back-to-back are robbed of their bulk. From there, Calder's progress from wood to wire, and from plinth to wall or ceiling, seems logical enough.

Sculptural substance vanishes, and in its place a weightless intoxication with time is allowed to flourish. The body of a horse is reduced to pure contours leaping through space, while the tensile form of an upside-down acrobat runs down into words wittily proclaiming that she is a "wire sculpture by Calder".

By this time, the paradoxically bulky American had captivated the Parisian avant-garde. They loved his improvised performances of an entire circus troupe, while he learned from their work as well. Miró proved a major influence, and some of Calder's mobiles look like airborne versions of the Spaniard's surrealist paintings. But he learned just as

much from Mondrian, astounding the austere Dutchman with the sacrilegious suggestion that his paintings would work better if they were set in motion.

The results of Calder's own love affair with movement enliven the white, elegant chambers of the Sackler Galleries. Whether sprouting like brilliantly coloured fruit from an extended arm, or floating from the ceiling in poised clusters that respond to the slightest air, these exhilarating works convey the *joie de vivre* which is Calder's liberating legacy to modern sculpture.

RICHARD CORK

● Alexander Calder continues at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438), daily until June 7.

● The Crane Gallery has an exhibition of the work of Alexander Calder complementing the Royal Academy retrospective. The exhibition, his first in a commercial gallery in London for a generation, features early oil paintings, works on paper and tapestries, plus mobiles and sculptures. Crane Gallery, 171a Sloane Street (first floor), London SW1 (071-235 2464), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm. Until May 1.



The Horse, a 1976 lithograph by Alexander Calder

RECORDS: JAZZ

Mature and mellow

DIZZY GILLESPIE should have been appearing at the Festival Hall earlier this month, celebrating his 75th birthday with his globe-trotting big band. Another bout of illness has put paid to those plans. Some consolation is to be found in the selection of tunes re-cast by Bebop &

Beyond, a sleek American group led by the reeds player Mel Martin.

Despite the band's name, the arrangements on *Bebop & Beyond* (Polygram R2-79170) are closer in spirit to Gillespie's more spacious mid-period work than the rough and tumble of the early bebop recordings. Aware that the world is not crying out for yet another blast of "Night in Tunisia", Martin has picked out several lesser-known compositions alongside the stirring Afro-Cuban fanfare, "Manteca".

Gillespie makes a guest appearance on six of the eight tracks. No longer able to hurtle into the stratosphere at will, he allows fellow-trumpeter Warren Gale to take most of the honours. It has to be said that Gillespie lags a long way behind on occasion — only to be expected from a man his age. There is a mechanical air to some of his soloing, and his tone is often tentative. Still, his native cunning and sense of timing carries him through, and if the signature is blurred and shaky at times, it is still immediately recognisable. He certainly makes amends at a slower tempo with "I Waited For You", a genuinely affecting ballad which also features his gravelly voice.

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Canvassing London's tent dwellers

How do the homeless view an election in which they seem to have been ignored? Alice Thomson found out

Greville had just settled himself down for the night on three binliners, a fake fur coat and a piece of tarpaulin. The theatre-goers, diners and office workers who were hurrying across Lincoln's Inn Fields, near the Strand in central London, were careful not to tread on him. But Greville was not asking them for anything, he was discussing politics.

"It's my own fault. I came from Leeds without enough money and I just couldn't get a job before it ran out," the 18-year-old says. "But none of the politicians are doing enough for our generation. My friends left school at 15 and half of us couldn't even read properly. There are no jobs for us and no accommodation. We're stuck. I might have voted Labour because they are more likely to put the dole up. But I couldn't vote for Kinnock, he changes his policies every more often than the others."

Greville doesn't really care about the dilemma because he can't vote anyway, neither can any of his neighbours. The 150 men and women who bed down each night in Lincoln's Inn Fields have lost the right to vote. They form part of the estimated 2,500 people estimated by charities to live on the streets of London.

Once the Fields was an attractive oasis in the heart of legal London, with regimental bands in the summer and an open-air café. Now the gardens are largely untended and occupied by about 40 tents and rough shelters which form a shanty town for the homeless. There are no lavatories and there is no running water.

They come to the Fields because it is less vulnerable to casual violence, being tucked behind the Inns of Court, it has a well-developed system of food handouts and it is within easy access of shopping streets and a constant stream of pedestrians with the potential for begging.

The word "homeless" can conjure up images of an unshaven mass drunk, sometimes mad and often begging. But a walk round the Fields produced little evidence to justify this notion. Most of the people there are very ordinary individuals who once had jobs, families and hopes. There are all types of people — unem-

ployed young, old naval veterans. A few have psychiatric problems and some are alcoholics but most become trapped in the Fields because of redundancy, unemployment and housing costs. They are well aware that there is a general election in a fortnight and they have their personal grievances they want to air yet their voice is drowned by promises to those who can vote on April 9.

By 6pm on Tuesday night the cold was already numbing and it was painful to stand still. I walked around the fields with Kate Head from Thames Reach, a housing association which offers help to homeless

'I may be on the street but I haven't lost my mind. I am outside the figures'

people in central London with finding accommodation, benefit claims and support.

Kate offers George, who is hanging around the gate, a cigarette. George is Scottish and came to London six months ago. "The police wouldn't leave me alone because I have a criminal record for manslaughter so I had to come down here, but I love Scotland. I'd like to be able to vote for their independence," he says. At 27, he has already spent eight years in prison. "I want the new government to put the prison system at the top of all their agendas. Prisons do little to help you to get back into the community."

Thames Reach has found George a flat to move into but he is still pessimistic about finding a job. "Everyone is scrounging for jobs at the moment. I haven't got a skill so I am bottom of the heap. All that time in prison and they taught me to do nothing — what a waste."

Next to the Squarehouse, a wooden shed, Andy has found a tent to share and is having a last walk around the park before bed. Andy finds it

humiliating not to have the vote. "I voted in every other election. I voted Conservative last time but that was when I had a job and a home. Everyone should have the right to vote. I may be on the street but I haven't lost my mind. I am outside government figures. I am a nobody," he says.

Andy, aged 33, used to be a bank clerk but lost his wife and his job because of his alcoholism. He found work as a cleaner, but couldn't hold down the job and moved into the park a couple of weeks ago when he could no longer afford the bed and breakfast. "I think this park should be a place for children to play not for the likes of us. It's terrible seeing a beautiful place like this being soiled but we have nowhere to go. I would vote for any government that could get me out of here and sort out my problem but none of them offer us anything concrete," he says.

Inside the Roundhouse, a summerhouse in the centre of the Fields, Graham, who is wearing a gold crown from McDonald's and clutching a can of beer, is arguing with his friends about the monarchy. "The monarchy is going down the drain, Fergie's finally sunk them," he says. "Maybe I ought to apply for the job of king?" Kate asks him whether he wants to find somewhere to live. "Of course, but I'm not going into one of those hostels. They are full of junkies and old blokes spitting. I need my space. I want my own room I can decorate myself," he says.

What would Graham really like? "I would like to be watching the cricket in Australia rather than listening to it on a crummy radio in a freezing bandstand," he says. "But at least it means the politicians will stop gassing. This election has been really uninspired." Graham has heard Ken Livingstone talking about the sale of the County Hall. "Why are they giving the building to the Japanese? They should make it into a proper hostel for us. Then they wouldn't have to be embarrassed about tourists tripping up on us in the streets. It would be a real vote winner and they could prove they care."

Dorothy is cocooned in blankets and a woolly hat. "We should force all the minis-



No concrete promises: some of London's homeless after a freezing night in their encampment at Lincoln's Inn Fields

ters to stay in power. That way they would be more responsible and they would be taken more seriously," she says. The Hare Krishna have arrived for the first soup run of the night and men and women start appearing from the bushes. "If I could vote on behalf of everyone lying in doorways I would give my vote to the

people who come here every night and actually help us," says Nick, who looks like an elderly rock star, in tight trousers and platform heels. He gives Kate a squeeze.

"I have this fantasy where the prime minister asks me what I would do for the homeless," Nick continues. "I would ask to go to tea and

show him how well I behaved. Then I would very politely ask what he is going to do for the people who have nothing. If he can't reply I will ask him what he is doing for the British Gas men who seem to be earning millions every year? He is offering them free education, free health care and help with their mortgages.

Then I would ask: 'Who needs more help, the homeless or people who already have a job?' I saw a 15-year-old girl begging on the Strand last week. I took her to a hostel and gave her some change. We all help each other here in the Fields. That is basic human kindness — but someone needs to help us."

Graces and favours
... or what the butler said

Down the road at the primary school, they fold their hands before dinner and intone "Lord bless the food we eat and help us to enjoy it with good manners". They have said this throughout living memory, and although its banality and bathos are clear to all they somehow can't change it. In countless other schools the awkward inversion beginning "For what we are about to receive..." prefaces a general scraping of chairs, and in public schools the head boy's job is to snarl charmingly "Benedictus benedictus". Which translates as "Let the blessed one bless" or, more loosely, "Do your job, God".

Seeing Mr Hudson the butler again on the Channel 4 repeat of *Upstairs Downstairs* reminded me of the singularly chilling nature of some graces before meals. Over the congealing mutton he requested God to "Grant us consolation to that rank in which in His infinite mercy He has seen fit to place us"; every word a brick in the wall. This particular blessing — like the good manners one — didn't quite make it into Carolyn Martin's second *Book of Graces*, but other prime examples do.

The occupational graces favoured by servicemen and livery companies have a certain panache: nice that the Waxchangers Company mention "The Wax and the Honey", and the Woolmen regard themselves as "grazing". One can see oneself dining comfortably with the Parachute Regiment, who say "Good food, Good friends, Safe Landings, Thank God" (the Navy just tend to bark "Thank God!" and sit down hard).

Most graces seem to bring out the very worst in their authors

And it is only proper pride which makes the Catering Corps point out in their thanksgiving "The skill of those who prepare and serve"; and predictable self-congratulation which makes The Vegetarian Grace so keen to mention their own "kindness and mercy towards Thy creatures". And there is a real frisson in the Millers' Grace: "Back of the bread is the flour. Back of the flour is the mill. And back of the mill is the wind and the rain. And the Father's will."

But it must be said that most graces seem to bring out the very worst in their authors. Terrible derymantic archaisms and jargon about "sufficiency" and "bounties" deface even modern graces, with honourable exceptions like the Right Rev Hugh Montefiore's "Thank you God for our lovely food". But even that inclines towards the opposite weakness, that of folksiness. I will not trouble you with the W.I. Christmas Grace (cheerful crimson berry... children's faces shining merry... you get the picture) but must point the finger at the Very Rev Lancelot Fleming, former Dean of Windsor, with "O Lord, grant that we may not be like porridge, stiff, stodgy and hard to stir; but like cornflakes: crisp, fresh and ready to serve". Just a black coffee for me, please.

And yet which family does not sometimes wish it had the grace habit? It gives dignity to a meal, a moment of discipline and silence amid the mindlessly snacking self-indulgence of our times. Victoria Gillick, Catholic mother of ten children, never neglects grace. "Even when Gordon and I just sit down to a sandwich. It lifts food one plane higher, and gives it a moral dimension." At family gatherings they generally say the standard Catholic grace, beginning "Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts..." moderating it for visiting atheist children with "Rub a dub dub, thanks for the grub", a Scottish version imported by Gordon Gillick. Perhaps they should try another Scottish one: "Doon head, up paws, thank God we've jaw".

By the way, it turns out to be a foul canard that some City banquets begin with the magnificently insensitive words "Lord bless us who feast whilst others starve". It must be a mishearing of the Edwardian Bishop Gore: "Lord, forgive us that we feast while others starve". Much better.

LIBBY PURVES

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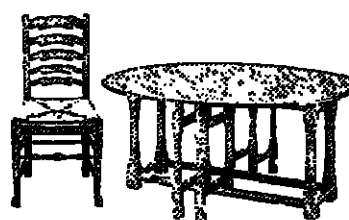
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Don't you Lovett

A country boy who outsmarted Nashville

For some reason country and western music and intelligence are not often linked in word association tests. The country singer is still deemed a hick, a cornball, a farmboy. The female is all heart and hairdo, no brain. They are both of them weeping into their beer, and likely to divorce each other and crash a pick-up truck before the evening is out. It's never been quite fair. Name one pop singer who was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford. Exactly. Kris Kristofferson was, though, and he's as country as they come. In the new generation, there's only one contender for the contested title of Most Intelligent Man in Country Music, and that's Lyle Lovett.

To start with, he's a graduate. He studied German and journalism. This is not the correct CV for his profession. He should be a former truck-driver, an ex-con made good, or a baby good of boy who washed dishes in every bar in Nashville before being given his chance. Waylon Jennings has a song about how "poor-boy ways and hard-time days are just six strings away" — this is not true of Lovett. Should he put down his guitar he could hold good as a businessman, a PR man, a writer, or a particularly bright fashion stylist. He does all these things anyway, as part of being a very successful young country singer.

The combination of country and clever is quite something. Traditionally country is music to a formula, music where you can hear the words, and music from the heart. Lovett scores the hat-trick. Within the discipline of the formula he produces poetic, bitchy, canny, heartfelt songs. It's best defined by example: "The preacher asked me, I said yes, I do". The preacher asked her, she said "yes he does too". The man pronounced us ninety-nine to life, man she's no lady, she's my wife." Or "red-neckness has got to be a disease, you catch it on your fingers, it just crawls right up your sleeve..."



Country but clever: singer Lyle Lovett

Dwight Yoakum, for example, was not welcomed because he was "too country". Lovett was told his music had "too many words", kd lang is notoriously androgynous.

Lovett is long, thin, ironic and charming, with Southern-boy manners, hair like a monocrome cockatoo, and a face like a pansy. His songs are called things like "I Married Her Just Because She Looks Like You", which sound like it could be a straightforward tear-in-your-beer ballad, but by the end of the song it turns out that though that's why he married her in the first place, he has since come to appreciate that she is twice the

woman you could ever be and furthermore she loves him.

The songs drip with traditional C&W romantic imagery of front porches and cowboys and pick-up trucks and sorrowful cups of coffee, but he was never a straight country throwback merchant. His nostalgia is absolutely genuine (he lives in the house his grandfather built in the small Texas town founded by his mother's great-great-grandfather, and he dreams of desert highways) and it is informed by intelligence and education.

You don't hear Lyle Lovett played as muzak in American shopping malls, crooning truisms for rednecks in leisure suits. Nashville never quite accepted him as their own, and indeed so they shouldn't, because he never was. Now this is paying off. This summer Lyle Lovett is to support Dire Straits on their upcoming British tour of open-air stadium dates. They get the cred (Lovett crawls with cred) and he gets the exposure to thousands of fans who would never have dreamt of liking country music.

Ironically, this is happening just as Lovett's record company has decided not to call him country any more, and his new album, *Joshua Judges Ruth* (released by MCA on March 31), was recorded in Los Angeles.

Joshua Judges Ruth (named after the three consecutive books in the Old Testament) has only one truly country track. "It's a self-deprecating neurotic Jewish comic's country song," Lovett says, "and it's called 'She's Leaving Me Because She Really Wants To'." Much of the rest could be classed as gospel swing, if a label has to be found.

Lovett won a Grammy for his third album, *Lyle Lovett and his Large Band*; his songs have been used in a film soundtrack (*Switch*, with Ellen Barkin), and he has a part in Robert Altman's new film *The Player*. Though Lovett is "not in it enough to screw it up", his part is no cameo.

LOUISA YOUNG

مكتبة لائل

Exercise: take as directed

Ann Kent reports on patients' response to a surgery where doctors prescribe a walk across the road, to the leisure centre

Today, and every other day, thousands of people will make their GP's hearts sink. The doctor's dismay may be triggered during the morning or afternoon surgery, when a certain name appears on the list of patients. Or it may be in the middle of the night, when the phone rings, and an all too familiar voice utters an all too familiar complaint.

"Heart-sink" patients are those individuals whose problems are genuine, but for whom no effective treatment can be found. Now a group of family doctors in the Sussex town of Hailsham has discovered a simple and effective way of helping them.

Anne Wheeler, a 54-year-old grandmother, is a fairly typical heart-sink. The drugs she took to control the arthritis in her hands were not working, the medication she needed to control her thyroid condition made her depressed, and the anti-depressants she was taking made her cry. When she visited Dr David Hanratty last January, the GP listened, sympathised and then handed Mrs Wheeler a slip of paper. It was a prescription for ten hour-long sessions at her local leisure centre, The Lagoon.

Although it was opposite the GP's surgery, Mrs Wheeler had never ventured into The Lagoon. Like most of Dr Hanratty's patients she regarded it as a special place for the young, the healthy and the fit.

Her first visit to The Lagoon consisted of an interview, and her second comprised a fitness test, after which a programme was devised for her. Two months later, she talks proudly of the day she did 2,309 metres on the rowing machine in ten minutes, giving her fit, 30-year-old son, who tried the same thing, a run for his money.

And she no longer needs to take anti-depressants.

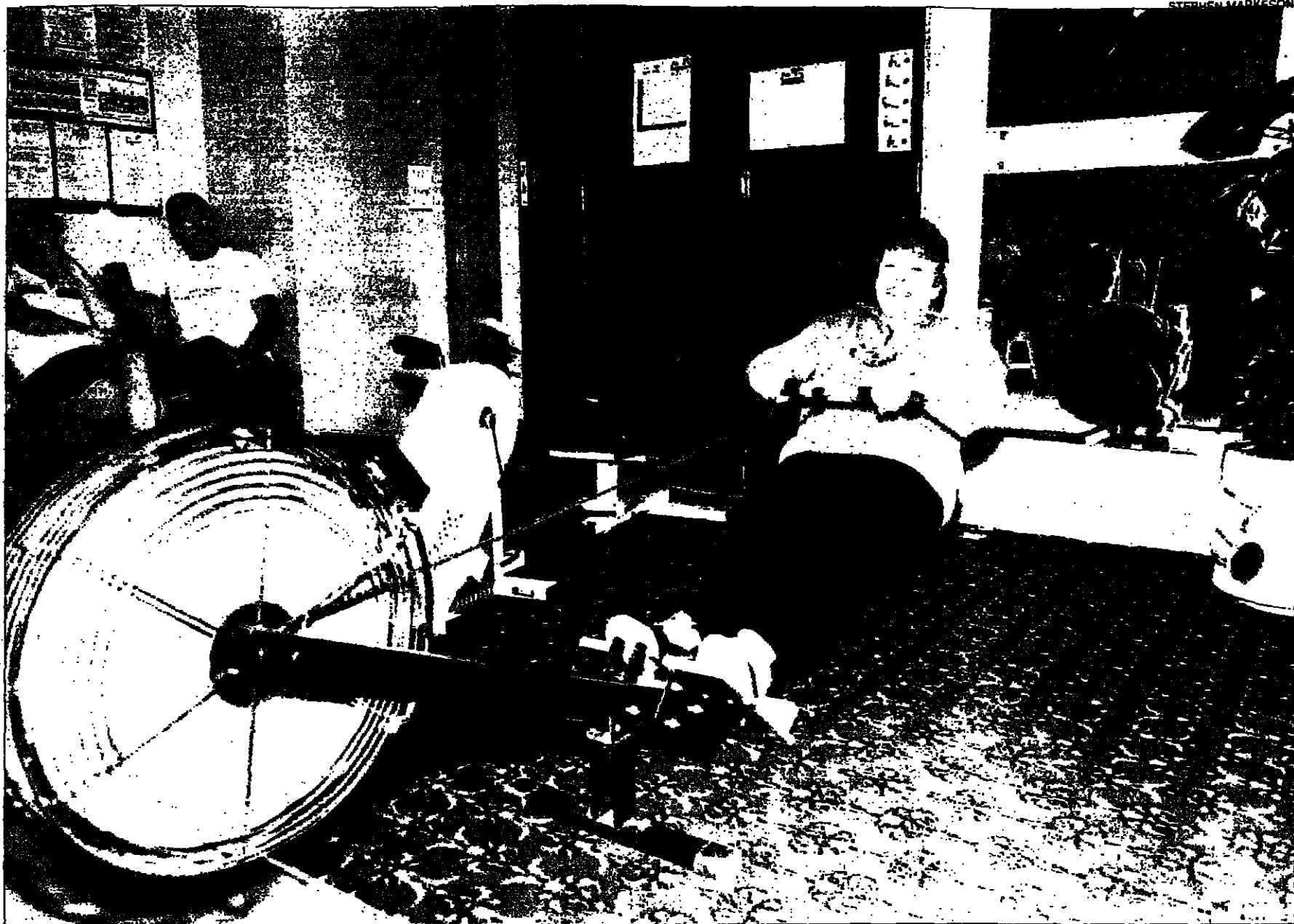
Joe Hayward, a 46-year-old carpet fitter, was a caricature of a man at high risk of heart disease. He smoked 50 cigarettes a day, drank heavily, worried about his business, did not exercise, fell asleep in his armchair after work, and ate all the wrong things. But there was nothing comical about his chest pains, or the x-rays which showed the major arteries serving his heart were becoming clogged with fatty deposits, or in the surgeon's suggestion that he might need a heart transplant.

After Mr Hayward was discharged from hospital last summer, Dr Hanratty visited him at home and wrote a prescription for The Lagoon. Since he started the programme, Mr Hayward has given up smoking, learnt to swim, changed his diet and lost a stone. He has also stopped taking drugs to lower his blood pressure because they slowed him down.

In theory, these prescriptions should have been totally ineffectual. Family doctors regularly sigh over their patients' attitudes to their own health. In the same way as they would take their broken-down car to a garage, they take their ailing bodies to a doctor, and expect him to provide a cure. "Patients do not expect to be told to pick up their beds and walk," Dr Hanratty says, "yet I have been telling them they must do something to help themselves — and, to my surprise, they have been."

Dr Hanratty and some of his colleagues have been referring to the leisure centre patients with cancer, asthma, obesity, arthritis, diabetes, lung, hypertension, partial paralysis and depression.

Trying to help overweight female patients is one of the most frustrating tasks for a GP, because



"When the physio gave me my fitness programme, I thought, 'This will kill me.' " Anne Barnes, overweight and diabetic, rowing at The Lagoon fitness centre

results are so hard to achieve. Anne Barnes, who was four stone overweight, said she was "fed up with absolutely everything" when she went to see Dr Hanratty.

"The food I needed to help control my diabetes seemed to make me put on weight rather than lose it, and I was very depressed about the way I was looking. I had no energy, either."

"Dr Hanratty suggested I did some exercise to speed up my metabolism. But when the physio at The Lagoon gave me my fitness programme, last January, I thought, 'This will kill me.' In fact, Mrs Barnes, aged 45, found she was able to build up her fitness and lose a stone of weight simply through exercising. "Although I've still got a long way to go with my weight, my blood sugar levels have dropped so it is easier to control my diabetes."

Dr Hanratty admits he was initially pessimistic about the outcome when the Oasis project (named after the Lagoon's Oasis

gym where most of the workouts take place) gradually took off last summer. He was not too worried about the fact that the NHS was not subsidising the scheme, which meant that patients would have to pay for their fitness sessions. The Lagoon, run by the local authority, was offering its facilities at a special low rate of £1 for a session in the cardiovascular gym and 50p for a swim.

"Many of my patients spend £20 to £30 a week on cigarettes, and compared with the price of a prescription — £3.40 [this will rise to £3.75 on April 1] — the workouts are cheap," Dr Hanratty says. But he thought that the patients in greatest need — those who exercised the least — would be unlikely to turn up. "Patients listen to the doctor, and then do what they want to do."

He quotes research showing that for every ten patients given a prescribed medicine, only four take it according to the instructions. Other studies have revealed

that only 50 per cent of people who begin a fitness programme are still exercising six months later.

Mike Osbourne, the manager of The Lagoon, said it had long worried him that the people in the greatest need of building up their fitness were the ones least likely to visit leisure centres. Mr Osbourne also sees the venture as a marketing exercise, a way of getting feet on treadmills during the day, when the facilities are under-used.

Many of the 144 people on the Oasis programme have shown that Mr Osbourne's confidence was justified, by not only signing on as members of the leisure centre, but bringing their families with them.

Undertaking an organised fitness programme while coping with a major health problem is a daunting prospect for many people. Mrs Wheeler needed to grip the handles of the exercise bike and the rowing machine at a

time when her arthritis meant she could not peel potatoes or knit.

"But I told myself I would just do one minute, and then another minute — and then you realise you have achieved something," she says. "My hands don't ache nearly so much now and I have cut down on my arthritis drugs."

Mr Hayward admits he was afraid when first confronted with the equipment so soon after discovering the bad news about his clogged arteries. "I thought that if you had heart disease you had to wrap yourself in cotton wool."

In fact, according to Dr Hanratty the risks of a carefully supervised exercise programme are much lower than the risks run by professional athletes who push their bodies beyond their limit.

Jim McLaughlin, the exercise physiologist at the Lagoon who designs the fitness programmes for the Oasis patients, is investigating why the scheme seems to be working so well. So far, his research shows that clients who

are referred by their GPs are more likely to stick to a programme than people who refer themselves. Many of them can be converted into what he calls habitual exercisers, provided they are given a sympathetic introduction and effective monitoring.

Although the advantages of exercise in the avoidance of hypertension, heart disease and stroke are well-established, the medical profession has generally assumed that only the most highly motivated of individuals will undertake fitness training.

Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Barnes and Mr Hayward are typical of the patients on the Oasis scheme. This week others, some of them considerably older, spoke with almost evangelical enthusiasm about the effects of their fitness training.

Until recently, though, most of them had never considered exercise as a way of helping their condition, or fitness centres as a place where they might fit in.

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Striking a vocal cord

A GENERAL Election campaign is to a politician's vocal cords what a marathon is to a runner's legs: the ultimate test of training and fitness. This year the main contestants are doing well, despite the tensions engendered by the close contest. These might have been expected to cause an abnormal tightening of the vocal cords and alter the breathing by creating an unnatural tension in the neck, chest and abdomen.

According to Mr Malcolm Keen, ear, nose and throat surgeon at the Harley Street Voice Clinic, John Major has a naturally good quality voice. Although the tone may, to some ears, lack a musical quality, and others might wish for more variation in pitch and intensity, his speech is well controlled and his vocal cords not over-stained. With training the prime minister's voice could become more melodious, says Mr Keen, but as a voice specialist his immediate concern would not be about the prime ministerial timbre but its staying power. In any case, as it is, says Mr Keen, "the prime minister's voice reflects his classiness".

He is impressed by the improvement in Neil Kinnock's voice since the last



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

election. It appears that with greater experience, and possibly training, Mr Kinnock has learnt to control his delivery; he is less liable to rant, which is when his voice "cracks around the edges", showing there is a limit to the amount of punishment his vocal cords can take. Experts admire the way in which Mr Kinnock's voice has subtly altered over the years, so that there is still enough Welshness in it to inspire a chapel congregation or political rally, but it is not so local as to irritate those from other parts of the country. Paddy Ashdown's voice is perceived as stronger than the other two, perhaps because it has been trained on the parade ground. The modern voice clinic has sophis-

ticated teaching aids. Opera and pop singers, actors, captains of industry and television personalities all use the bio-feedback provided by video-stroboscopy, whereby a camera visualising the patient's throat projects an image of the larynx on to a television screen, enabling them to view the behaviour of their laryngeal cords as they talk. Another system is the laryngography, in which two pads are applied to the outside of the patient's larynx; this transmits a record of the sound waves produced by their voice so that the patient and speech therapist can analyse the speech.

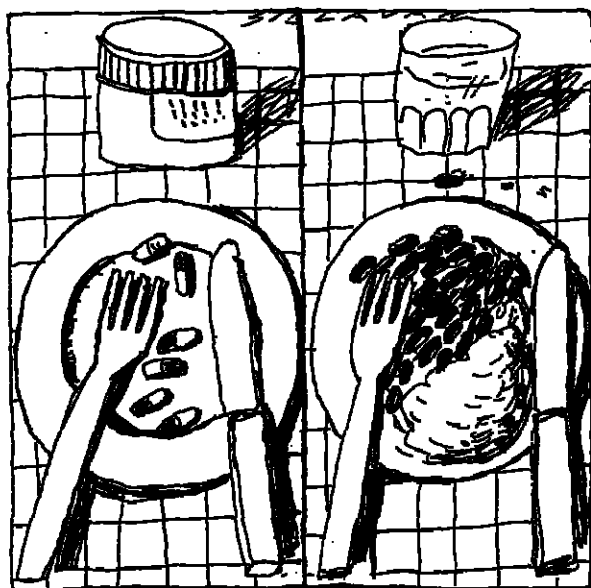
However, in the clinic's experience, politicians don't like to admit that they may need help, for fear of weakening their position both with colleagues or the electorate. The clinic's immediate advice to politicians to help them through the election is to avoid alcohol, to take plenty of fluids, particularly when travelling in air-conditioned planes or buses, to avoid smoke-filled rooms and, if at all possible, constant talking. Their long-term advice is that, like other people who have to speak to earn their living, politicians should have voice production lessons.

Self-cure cancer

TWO years ago, neither the New York publisher Patrick McLoughlin nor his doctors, would have believed that this week he would be attending London's book fair and The Sunday Times awards dinner.

Mr McLoughlin had battled in vain against his cancer, a poorly differentiated lymphocytic non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. From the moment the diagnosis was made, he had been warned that the cancer, which was already advanced, had an unfavourable outlook. After many months of intensive chemotherapy and radiotherapy, which had initially checked the disease but eventually failed to control it, it was decided to abandon all treatment for a time, preparatory to the use of monoclonal antibodies, the "magic bullets" that can deliver a dose very precisely to a tumour.

Initially, as was expected, when the treatment was stopped the disease ran rampant. The glands in his neck swelled until he was bul-necked, and he could not breathe because of pressure from enlarged glands in his



chest. The cancer, which had infiltrated the skin of his forehead, grew until it stretched from ear to ear. And then suddenly, before any other treatment was started, the glands started to go down; he found he could breathe again, and the cancer cleared from his face, leaving only a slight scar.

Now Mr McLoughlin's doctors report normal x-rays and pathology findings. He has never felt better, and to demonstrate his enthusiasm

for life will have a holiday in Paris with his daughter after he leaves London. Mr McLoughlin attributes the miracle to the beneficial effects of two meals a week of black beans and rice; but most doctors have seen other cases of spontaneous recovery from apparently hopeless cases of cancer without the help of beans. The moral is that no doctor should ever be dogmatic about the prognosis, and that no patient should ever give up hope.

Old and underfed

IN DICKENS'S era unwanted children had short commons in the orphanage; now it is the turn of the institutionalised elderly.

A recent conference on nutrition and ageing addressed the problem of gross weight loss in elderly hospital-bound patients. According to one speaker, this was usually not the result of malabsorption or a change in metabolism, but of a system whereby all patients were fed the same amount of food regardless of their individual needs.

There were varying responses. One speaker warned that, although it was important to increase fibre intake, processed sources of bran could prevent the absorption of essential minerals. The fibre should be naturally occurring as in brown bread, vegetables and fruit.

Another pointed to the possibly beneficial influence of a high intake of anti-oxidant vitamins on the development of Alzheimer's disease.

Finally, a plea was made for more exercise so that the jaded appetites could be stimulated, encouraging the consumption of more essential vitamins and minerals.

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A fat chance of success

The doyens of dieting are now reassessing its value. Victoria McKee reports

Towards the end of last year it was reported that the number of fat people in Britain was expanding. A Royal College of Physicians conference was told that between 1987 and 1990, the proportion of "very fat" women rose from 8 to 12 per cent, and of obese men from 6 to 8 per cent. This coincided with a report by the Centre of Research and Information for Overweight in France that judged British women to be Europe's most "food susceptible". Their dependency on food was contrasted with the balanced, epicurean approach of the French.

There is growing concern among experts that the national obsession with dieting may be having a serious effect on our collective health. This is coupled with a suspicion that the only figures dieting benefits are those on the balance sheets of the slimming industry. A decade after Geoffrey Cannon first suggested, in his book of the same title, that "Dieting Makes You Fat", there is increasing public support for such a view.

Even Bernice Weston, who in 1967 founded WeightWatchers in the UK, has changed direction and would seem to be biting the hand that fed her. "I think diets are damaging," she says. "There is a 100 per cent failure rate with every diet, by definition, because the word diet means something you go on and fall off. It does not mean a total change in the way you think and live." The 1990s, she feels, "should be a decade without diets, a time when people take more responsibility for their own actions". This does not mean that she feels fat can be beautiful, however, or healthy. "I have nothing against the Rubenesque, but there is nothing pretty or healthy about a flabby stomach. And obesity is a killer. I lost a husband aged 44 to heart disease which I am convinced was due to his weight problems."

But if both excess weight and dieting are damaging, what is the answer? What Mrs Weston and

other slimming gurus like her are now advocating is the re-education of eating habits for ever — a life plan rather than a diet.

Rosemary Conley (of the *Hip and Thigh Diet* fame) specifically avoided the word "diet" in the title of her new book, *Whole Body Programme*. Next month, Mrs Weston is launching a new weightwatching organisation called Wise Weighs. Although her new programme, as expounded in her forthcoming book, *Bank Balance Diet*, involves counting calories, and sounds suspiciously like a diet, she insists that it is not a diet but a "new philosophy".

"At Wise Weighs we will get to the root of the problems which can cause women to overeat," she promises. "We will have sessions called WIT — women in transition — since it is difficult transitional times such as pregnancy, divorce, and so on, which seem to cause women to over-eat."

Among medical experts, there is disagreement as to whether bad eating habits have profound psychological roots. According to Gerald Shaper, a professor of clinical epidemiology at the Royal Free Hospital in London and an expert on the effect of weight on heart disease and hypertension, "People are usually overweight simply because very few take enough exercise these days to justify the calories they're taking in. You don't have to invoke the perils of their childhood or how they feel about their wives."



A member of WeightWatchers after shedding 65lb. But most slimmers put the weight back on

new clothing, which may create a new dependency. Anorexia and bulimia go hand in hand with dieting worries, says Dr Dolan. Her studies have shown that in cultures untouched by the Western ideal of slimmness in women, such eating disorders are unknown.

The dieting industry, so well-developed in the West, seems much of the blame for the increase in eating disorders. Dr Jane Ogden, a lecturer in health psychology at Middlesex Polytechnic, is the author of *Fat Chance: The Myths of Dieting Explained*, to be published by Routledge in May. "My book shows that most people who use the diet industry aren't fat in the first place," she says. "And the industry doesn't distinguish between those

who genuinely are fat and those who simply think they are."

Her research involved charting the progress of dieters over six-week periods. "I found that they all became increasingly depressed, agitated, angry and argumentative," she says.

Mood swings are the thin end of the wedge, however. Dr Dolan says her research work in forensic psychiatry has shown a link between eating disorders and acts of violence in both men and women. Lots of compulsive behaviours go hand in hand," she says. "I've seen more men with eating problems since I've worked in forensic psychiatry than I ever did in an eating disorders clinic —

because men don't come forward in that way," she says.

Men are increasingly being brought into the picture, however. According to Dr Dolan's book on eating disorders, *Why Women*, nearly a third of pre-pubescent anorexics are male, against earlier estimates of less than a tenth. Mrs Weston thinks male interest in diet and weight is increasing, and she hopes to have as many men as women at the Wise Weighs sessions. She believes that the advent of men's magazines such as *Esquire* and *GQ* is beginning to make men more body-conscious. "When I started WeightWatchers in Britain we had only 5 per cent men," Mrs Weston says. "Now it's up to about 40 per cent, and in America it's 50-50."

Surgery closed

In parts of America the traditional family doctor is becoming a rare breed

The voice on the telephone was bright, insistent and keen to ingratiate, eager for a sale.

"Have you used our service before?" asked the young man from the Prologue Dial Doctors agency. "Well, then, I'll have to ask for some personal details. I hope you don't mind." Within a couple of minutes the young man from the organisation that advertises itself as America's most complete information source on doctors was trying to fix me up with a thoracic surgeon who wanted, according to the Prologue spiel, to form a relationship with me. "Call me old-fashioned," I replied, "but I really don't want to form a relationship with my doctor."

My request for a basic, plain, simple doctor fell on deaf ears. My explanation of why I needed a doctor — to check-up on a hairline fracture of a rib and torn and bruised muscles, all the result of a car smash in Detroit 24 hours earlier — only served to provoke him to offer cardiologists, orthopaedic surgeons and neurologists, most costing well over \$200 (£110) for an initial consultation.

The simplicity of my request confused him. "You have chronic back-pain?" he asked, for the third time. "No, I had a car accident, it is acute."

Trying to find what Americans call a "primary care" doctor, in short a GP, is no mean feat in Washington DC. The big money in medicine in the US is in the specialisms, particularly in surgery. The private-insurance driven US health care system encourages overkill. Why have a doctor just feel your arm when you can have a surgeon ultrasound it? The insurance company will pay.

This creature, the personal physician-type thing, is pretty well vanishing, said Dr James Snyder, who closed his 22-year-old solo Washington practice in 1990 after finally despairing of high running costs and declining income.

No central agency keeps a record of how many general doctors have given up their practices. But Joseph Boyle, the executive vice-president of the American Society of Internal Medicine, says: "We are hearing more and more frequently physicians saying, 'I've had enough'."

According to the *New England Journal*, a weekly medical magazine, during the last six years there has been a 19 per cent decline in medical graduates entering internal medicine (general practice with some specialisation), paediatrics and family practice — the mainstays of primary care. Family doctors have seen their incomes grow in the 1980s but far below the average increases of the American workforce. Their incomes have also grown less rapidly than their overhead costs. Insurance charges have leapt. Medical supply costs have increased above the rate of inflation.

A recent survey suggests that 70 per cent of general doctors believe they do not have enough control over their practice. Eighty per cent had been satisfied with their jobs when they started out in medicine but only 20 per cent are content now.

Dr Eugene Hildreth, the president of the American College of Physicians, said of my experience with Prologue: "That's classic. Good medical practice would dictate that you should see a general doctor before you go to specialists. But there is tremendous pressure now from consumer marketing by specialists who want to attract patients direct."

Equally, many patients are now keen to go in for a bit of self-diagnosis and decide which specialist they need to see. Frequently, they do not need to see a specialist at all or they send themselves to the wrong one. Time and money is wasted.

"There is a serious shortage of primary care doctors," Dr Hildreth says. "So, which is an economically dumb way to use medical manpower. Primary care doctors suffer from lack of respect, lack of appropriate payment and an awesome administrative burden."

My own story ended happily. A neighbour came up with a general doctor. The moment I saw him I knew this was the man for me. He wore an old tweed jacket and looked like he not only had children but grandchildren as well. Eschewing gadgetry, he just looked me over and winced when I yelped.

JAMIE DETTMER

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BMW AUTHORISED DEALERS

Hexagon

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2240 BMW 2000i, 1991, 100,000 miles, 120,000, 130,000, 140,000, 150,000, 160,000, 170,000, 180,000, 190,000, 200,000, 210,000, 220,000, 230,000, 240,000, 250,000, 260,000, 270,000, 280,000, 290,000, 300,000, 310,000, 320,000, 330,000, 340,000, 350,000, 360,000, 370,000, 380,000, 390,000, 400,000, 410,000, 420,000, 430,000, 440,000, 450,000, 460,000, 470,000, 480,000, 490,000, 500,000, 510,000, 520,000, 530,000, 540,000, 550,000, 560,000, 570,000, 580,000, 590,000, 600,000, 610,000, 620,000, 630,000, 640,000, 650,000, 660,000, 670,000, 680,000, 690,000, 700,000, 710,000, 720,000, 730,000, 740,000, 750,000, 760,000, 770,000, 780,000, 790,000, 800,000, 810,000, 820,000, 830,000, 840,000, 850,000, 860,000, 870,000, 880,000, 890,000, 900,000, 910,000, 920,000, 930,000, 940,000, 950,000, 960,000, 970,000, 980,000, 990,000, 1,000,000, 1,010,000, 1,020,000, 1,030,000, 1,040,000, 1,050,000, 1,060,000, 1,070,000, 1,080,000, 1,090,000, 1,100,000, 1,110,000, 1,120,000, 1,130,000, 1,140,000, 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Very closed

Auctions with a shiny face

The brighter side of recession is the car auction.

Kevin Eason observes a trend

THE electronic counter at ADT Auctions clicked round like an athlete's stopwatch. During recession it seems inconceivable that 116 cars could be sold in 90 minutes. While new-car dealers groan, the auction world stays almost depression-proof.

ADT, Britain's biggest auction group with 25 sites handling more than 800,000 vehicles worth £1.5 billion a year, is one of the trade's most sensitive barometers.

Second-hand cars sell new by almost three to one, and 65 per cent of used-car buyers purchase a second-hand model as their main transport. It is a £17 billion industry, yet it constantly attracts the wrong kind of attention. This market is labelled as the world of Arthur Daley, where buyers worry that their second biggest purchase in life could be a financial disaster.

Auctions, more than most, have the reputation of offering cheap cars - inviting you to gamble that the shiny model you drive away is not, in trade parlance, a "lemon". Only about 5 per cent of used cars



Bargain-hunters: today's auction may offer them better quality and service, and guarantees too

go through auctions, probably reflecting public suspicion. At ADT's main Blackbushe site, in Hampshire, buyers are two types: the sharp-suits with short, severe haircuts and mobile telephones, and the leather-jackets and jeans brigade. A trade auction is not the place for the wide-eyed or faint-hearted. Prices are fixed clearly and quickly, giving a good indication of which cars are holding value.

Auctions also offer speed. Fleet owners or dealers wanting to sell several cars at a time might struggle in today's depressed climate to find

buyers on forecourts. At auction, the cars go in one batch through one wholesaler to buyers at a realistic price, often to stock a second-hand showroom.

ADT, formerly British Car Auctions, also provides public sales and specialist days, for classic cars, for example, where a private buyer can get his dream car at a knockdown price because the "middle man" dealer's profit margin is avoided. However, there is always a nagging worry that the cheap car is also one that will cause endless trouble.

ADT is trying to end all that with the professionalism of the new-car

showroom. Cars are separated according to likely price and condition and can be valeted and repaired to look their best.

The buyer gets a full history with the car plus an indemnity against its being stolen, subject to an outstanding hire purchase agreement, or having its odometer illegally turned back.

Tom Gibson, ADT Auctions' chairman, says: "We have to take the responsibility for the cars we sell. It is time for the auction business to be regarded as well as a dealership and for buyers and sellers of a car to have confidence."

THERE has rarely been a better time to buy a used car. ADT says prices have hardened about 2 per cent since 1990, although there are still bargains to be had.

High-performance cars are being "dumped" at auctions, according to BRS Car Auctions, because owners cannot afford high insurance premiums.

Expect cars with GTI, GTE and SRI badges to be about 20 per cent cheaper than normal.

Try to buy a late model car and look for a well kept interior and a good paint finish.

Use this checklist to help:

- Check paint for ripples or bad matching, possibly indicating accident damage. Check underneath for rust.
- Look under the bonnet for oil leaks or signs of neglect, which may mean lack of proper servicing.
- Check the interior for wear, particularly the rubber on the clutch and throttle pedals. Heavy wear there but low mileage may mean the car has been clocked.
- Look closely at the odometer. Uneven numbers or other oddities may mean it has been turned back.
- If there are no test certificate, ownership or service documents, forget it.
- Take a long test drive if you are allowed. You may not be able to at auctions. Check for rattles and look for smoke when the car is revved. Make sure the car stops in a straight line and the steering does not pull.

Speed warning

THE European Commission is considering the possibility of tighter speed controls on cars, according to Karel Van Miert, the transport commissioner. Lorries and coaches are already subject to laws introducing engine speed governors progressively by 1995.

Mr Van Miert says no proposals have been made but a new safety body will "criticise or comment on" the idea of extending the controls to private cars.

Mini maxi-cargo
THE Port of Southampton was handling its biggest single shipment of Minis to Japan this week. More than 1,600 were being loaded on to one ship. More than 6,000 of Rover's baby cars bound for Japan have been loaded at Southampton recently, and British-manufactured cars account for two-thirds of the vehicles going through the port.

Safe Citroëns
CITROËN claims it is making two of the safest cars in their class. Although police reports for the government's Central Statistical Office showed that 8 per cent of accidents in small cars result in death, the figure for Citroën's AX was 6 per cent. In the medium segment the overall deaths per accident figure was 8 per cent but the BX mid-range model showed a return of 5 per cent.

More peace
VAUXHALL is extending its "peace of mind" motoring package to used cars through its Network Q dealers. The cost is £59.50, regardless of make or model, and cover can be extended for three years using RAC recovery services in Britain and on the European Continent. Assistance includes emergency accommodation, replacement vehicle, alternative transport and legal assistance.

Peugeot pair
IN THE wake of news that GTI cars are falling in popularity because of heavy insurance increases, Peugeot has added two new models to the high-performance range. A special edition 205 comes with the Century badge and an automatic gearbox, power steering and a 105bhp 1.9-litre engine. The colours are green or gold and the price is £12,836. The other newcomer is the 309 Goodwood, a sportier 130bhp model with wood and leather interior trim, compact

disc player and Goodwood green exterior paintwork, at £13,356 for the three-door version and £13,783 for the five-door.

Hidden champ

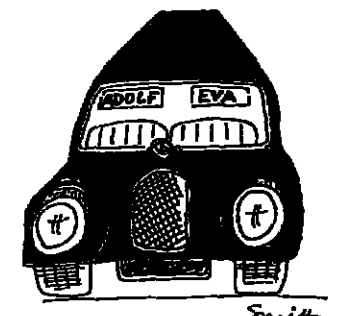
THE rusting hulk of a 1948 sports car, found in a Highland field and full of twigs and leaves, is expected to fetch £12,000 at auction on Monday. The 1948 1.5-litre HIRG is being sold by Solihely's at RAF Hendon, north London. The HIRG won the Scottish Top Gear Rally Championship in 1954 and eventually moved to its present owner in 1956 for £250. His widow kept the car in a field for 18 years until Solihely's discovered it and persuaded her to sell.

Funding the run

MITSUBISHI is to sponsor the Classic Marathon, the race involving 90 models built before 1966 from the Tower of London to Italy, starting on June 6. The tests include special stages in Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia before the cars, including Jaguars, MGs, Triumphs, Austin Healeys and Aston Martins, tackle mountain passes through the Dolomites.

Hitler's wheels

THE quest for famous cars to exhibit at the Classic and Sportscar International Show from May 23 to 25 has turned up some interesting finds. Cars belonging to Hitler, Mussolini and Eva Perón are expected at the show at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. The star will undoubtedly be the 19th bullet-proof Mercedes-Benz 770K used by Hitler, but there will be light relief from an automobile and displays of other classic cars.



Brake alert

BMW is recalling some of its most exotic motorcycles for a safety check after the company found that road salt could dislodge brake pads. BMW emphasises that there have been no crashes in Britain so far. The recall affects the K1, K100RS 16-valve and R100R machines, and the checks or the repairs will be carried out free.

Workhorse that puts on the style

ESTATE cars are workhorses, carrying children and luggage for the family holiday, and packed with everything from rolls of carpet to plumber's tools by tradesmen needing more space.

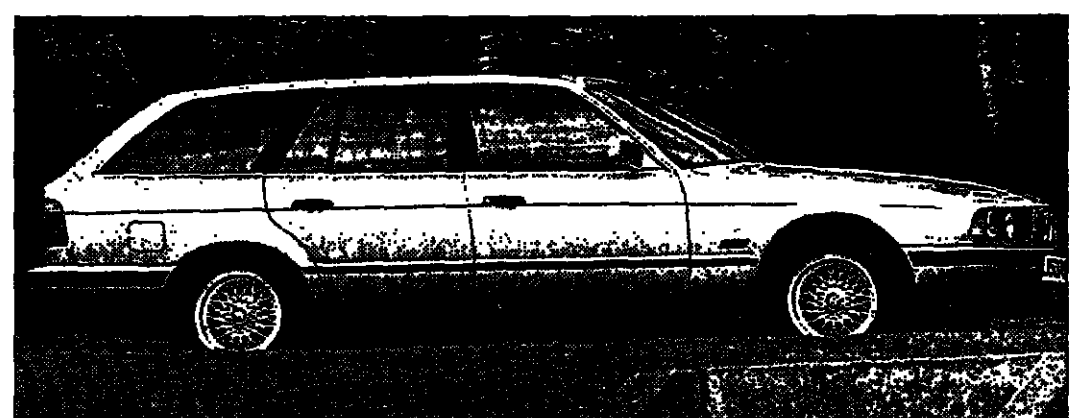
The market has been dominated by Volvo, Kevin Eason writes. Women on the school run particularly love the heavy feel of a Volvo reassuring them that they are safe as well as comfortable.

BMW thinks an estate can also have style and yesterday launched its new 5-series estates, which carry a Touring badge.

There are only 25,000 estate sales a year, so the market is crowded with Citroën's new XM, the Mercedes, a new Ford Granada

ROADTEST

da coming soon and, of course, the Volvo. BMW emphasises the quality and performance of its new model, but there is a degree of practicality too. Although the BMW's boot is not as big as the Volvo's, the 5-series offers plenty of room. The rear seats are split one-third to two-thirds, offering some loading flexibility. The tailgate opens to reveal a lower lip for easy loading but one unusual feature is that the rear screen also opens so that packed luggage does not have to be disturbed if a forgotten item has to be added. Interiors are typically BMW. In



Estate with a good line: BMW's offering is comfortable, roomy and stylish in a crowded market

the 520i Touring I tested, the cabin was comfortable if austere in a £21,000 car. The driving had BMW's best qualities but the 150 brake horsepower six-cylinder felt underpowered to pull a body of this size. There is no doubt that the

BMW offers more style than a Volvo but probably less substance, and at a higher price. A shade over £21,000 will buy a 2.3 GLE 940 Estate while Citroën offers a highly equipped 2.0i Si model at a little more than £18,000.

BMW 520i TOURING. Price: £20,950. Engine: 6-cylinder, 24-valve, offering 150bhp through five-speed manual gearbox (automatic available). Performance: 0 to 60mph in 11.3 seconds, top speed 127mph, fuel 21.4mpg in town.

Trade: 071-481 4422
Private: 071-481 4000

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

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1992 (G) 3.0 Vauxhall Astra, 1600 cc, 120,000 miles, £14,995
1991 (G) 3.0 Vauxhall Astra, 1600 cc, 120,000 miles, £14,995
1990 (G) 3.0 Vauxhall Astra, 1600 cc, 120,000 miles, £14,995
1991 (G) 3.0 Vauxhall Astra, 1600 cc, 120,000 miles, £14,995

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

1990 (G) Bentley Continental, 6.0 litre, 120,000 miles, £14,995
1991 (G) Bentley Continental, 6.0 litre, 120,000 miles, £14,995
1992 (G) Bentley Continental, 6.0 litre, 120,000 miles, £14,995
1990 (G) Bentley Continental, 6.0 litre, 120,000 miles, £14,995
1991 (G) Bentley Continental, 6.0 litre, 120,000 miles, £14,995

FOCUS ON...AUDI

NEWBOLDS OF MANSFIELD
100 2.0E 91H, Opel Metallic, SR, EW, Alloys, 5,000 miles
80 2.0SE 91J, Glacier Met, Full SE Spec, 7,000 miles
90 2.3E 91J, Tornado Red, Alloys, R/Splinter, EW, 7,000 miles
80 1.8SE 91J Titan Grey Met, Full SE Spec, 5,000 miles
Coupe Quattro 20V 90H, Tornado Red, Alloys Etc, 12,000 miles
Avant 2.3E Auto, 91J, Cyclamen Met, Alloys, 13,000 miles

FOCUS ON...VOLKSWAGEN

91 (J) CORRODO C60 Tornado Red, Electric Sunroof, Electric Windows, £16,450
90 (G) CORRODO 16V Tornado Red, Electric Sunroof, PAS, Central Locking, £16,450
90 (G) GTI CONVERTIBLE Alpine White, Alloys, Tints, Electric Hood, Radio Cassette, £16,450
88 (J) GOLF CLIPPER CONVERTIBLE AUTO Black, Tints, Radio Cassette, £16,450
91 (J) OETTINGER GOLF GTI 16V 2000R 182 BHP Dark Blue Metallic, Radio Cassette, Sports Suspension, Alloys, Electric Windows, Central Locking, PAS, 9,000 Miles, £16,450
91 (J) GOLF GTI 5 DOOR Black, Sunroof, Radio Cassette, 12,000 Miles £16,450
89 (G) GOLF GTI 16V 3 DOOR Alpine White, Air Conditioning, Power Steering, Recaro Seats, Electric Windows, Sunroof, Alloys, 31,000 Miles, £16,450
89 (G) GOLF GTI 16V 3 DOOR OETTINGER 162 BHP Helios Blue Metallic, Sunroof, Central Locking, Alloys, Tints, 42,000 Miles, £16,450
90 (G) GOLF GTI 3 DOOR Medium Blue Metallic, Power Steering, BBS Alloys, Electric Windows, Central Locking, 24,000 Miles, £16,450
90 (G) GOLF GL 1800 Alpine White, Tints, Stereo, 25,000 Miles, £16,450

WADHAM KENNING

1992 LANDCRUISER LWB AUTO
Red Mica, 300 miles only, 1992, 12,000 miles, £14,995
1991, 12,000 miles, £14,995
1990, 12,000 miles, £14,995
1989, 12,000 miles, £14,995
1988, 12,000 miles, £14,995

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

JAGUAR Sovereign V12, 6.0 litre, 120,000 miles, £14,995
JAGUAR XJS 3.6, 1991, 12,000 miles, £14,995
JAGUAR XJS 3.6, 1990, 12,000 miles, £14,995
JAGUAR XJS 3.6, 1989, 12,000 miles, £14,995
JAGUAR XJS 3.6, 1988, 12,000 miles, £14,995

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Shock can be reasonable excuse

DPP v Pearson
Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Waterhouse
[Judgment March 23]

Justices were entitled, without having heard any medical evidence, to find that shock combined with inebriation which rendered a defendant physically incapable of providing a breath specimen for analysis could amount to a reasonable excuse for failing to provide a specimen under section 7(6) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an appeal by the prosecution against a decision of Mr Justice Waterhouse to acquit Susan Elizabeth Pearson of failing to provide a breath specimen without reasonable excuse.

Mr Tudor Owen for the

prosecution: Mr Bernard Richmond for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that the justices had found that the defendant had provided one specimen of breath but when it came to providing a second specimen she began to lose her composure. She blew into the Intoximeter but was unable to provide a sufficient breath for a second specimen.

She sobbed continuously and felt short of breath and unable to breathe properly. Her condition prevented the supply of further breath specimens.

It was clear the justices had the test in *R v Lennard* (1973) 1 WLR 483 well in mind. It was open to the justices to conclude that she was physically incapable of providing a second specimen, although the fact that she had

succeeded in providing the first specimen meant the case was very close to the borderline.

The second submission for the prosecution was that the justices should not have reached that conclusion without medical evidence.

His Lordship was unwilling to accept the proposition in those absolute terms.

LORD JUSTICE GLEDEWELL in *Grady v Pollard* (1988) RTR 316, 323 said: "Such evidence will normally be the evidence of a medical practitioner, but it need not be, and one can envisage situations in which there is other evidence, indeed in some circumstances, the evidence of the defendant himself, would suffice."

It was true that since *Grady* the attitude of the court had hardened but his Lordship was not prepared to say that the dictum of

Lord Justice Gledewell was wrong. In the instant case there was evidence, albeit of the defendant herself rather than a doctor, which justified a conclusion of physical inability to provide a specimen.

That was not to say that justices should be glib. The fact that a defendant was drunk, under stress or trying his hardest was not sufficient to found a reasonable excuse.

Here the facts went further. The defendant's state of shock was the major factor in the justices' decision. They had been impressed by the quality of her evidence in court. It was not for the Divisional Court to interfere.

Mr Justice Waterhouse agreed.
Solicitors: CPS, St Albans; Powell Spencer & Partners, Kilburn.

Anomaly in planning statute

Colley and another v Canterbury City Council

Before Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Taylor and Lord Justice Fargher
[Judgment March 20]

It was necessary to give section 164(4) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, re-enacted in section 107(4) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which regulated compensation payable in respect of revocation of planning permission, its plain meaning, notwithstanding that such a construction could result in anomalies.

The effect of the subsection and Schedule 8 to the 1971 Act was that compensation was assessed on the basis that the post-revocation value of the land in question was calculated on the assumption that Schedule 8 planning permission would be granted.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments when allowing an appeal by way of case stated by Canterbury City Council from an interim decision of the Lands Tribunal, Mr J. C. Hill, dated March 27, 1991, whereby compensation payable to the landowners, Mark and Janine Colley, was assessed at £106,750, being the difference between the value of the land with the original planning permission, £115,000, and its value without that permission, £8,250.

The court held that the compensation payable was £45,000, taking account of the value of the land with the assumed permission under Schedule 8, which was less than its value with the original permission.

Planning permission was granted to demolish a building and to rebuild on the same land. After demolition of the building, the land was acquired by new owners. The planning authority eventually obtained from the secretary of state confirmation of an order revoking the permission.

The owners claimed compensation. Section 164 of the 1971 Act provides: "(4) In calculating for the purposes of this section the amount of any loss or damage consisting of depreciation of the value of an interest in land, it shall be assumed that planning permission would be granted for development of the land of any class specified in Schedule 8 to this Act."

The relevant class in that schedule related to the rebuilding of any building which was in existence on the appointed day, July 1, 1948, or which was in existence before that day but was destroyed or demolished after January 7, 1937.

Leave was given to appeal to the House of Lords.
Mr Christopher Cochrane, QC, and Mr Edward Cousins for

Canterbury: Mr David Keene, QC, and Mr Barry Payton for the owners.

LORD JUSTICE TAYLOR said that it was common ground that under the statutory scheme the owners were entitled to compensation for any depreciation in the value of their interest in the land resulting from the revocation order; further, that the depreciation was to be calculated as the difference between the value of the land with the 1961 permission in force and the value without it.

The dispute before the Lands Tribunal had been as to the effect of section 164(4) on that calculation. Canterbury had argued that in its plain and natural meaning the subsection required the calculator to assume the planning permission would be granted for the rebuilding of the house. On that basis the difference between the value before revocation and afterwards would be modest.

The owners had argued that such a literal construction would produce a nonsensical and unfair result. *Colley v Canterbury City Council* (1991) AC 744, 752: "An intention to take away the property of the subject without giving him a legal right to compensation for the loss of it is not to be imputed to the legislature unless that intention is expressed in unequivocal terms."

Mr Keene's second submission had been that the literal construction of section 164(4) for which Canterbury contended would produce such absurdity as to justify the court in declining to adopt it. Mr Cochrane accepted that.

only operate as Parliament intended it to operate if the development resulting from the Schedule 8 assumption, although a hypothetical one, is not that which also corresponds with the subject of the associated revocation order. This could be achieved by notionally adding at the end of subsection (4) of section 164 words such as 'unless such planning permission is the subject of revocation order proceedings'.

The question posed in the case stated was whether the tribunal had been correct in adding those words and whether it had been right to exclude from its calculations any assumption that planning permission would be granted in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 8 to the 1971 Act.

Mr Keene's first ground was that the effect of making the assumption would be to deprive the owners of a property right, the revocation permission, without compensation. That, he submitted, would be contrary to the principle stated by Lord Atkinson in *Central London Board v Eastern Brewery* (1919) AC 744, 752: "An intention to take away the property of the subject without giving him a legal right to compensation for the loss of it is not to be imputed to the legislature unless that intention is expressed in unequivocal terms."

Mr Keene's second submission had been that the literal construction of section 164(4) for which Canterbury contended would produce such absurdity as to justify the court in declining to adopt it. Mr Cochrane accepted that.

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although it was not the instant case, extreme and anomalous cases could occur. But he submitted that the possibility of such an anomaly occurring was no sufficient reason for declining to apply the plain words of the statute.

While appreciating the force of Mr Keene's submissions, his Lordship did not think that the court was justified in departing from the plain meaning of the words in section 164(4). He certainly did not think that the question justified that approach.

The owners had purchased the land for £14,500 after the house had been demolished. They had believed that the original permission had expired. When that had turned out not to be so, but the permission had been revoked, they were entitled under the plain meaning of the section to a sum assessed by the tribunal at £45,000. On any view, therefore, the owners could not be said to have been deprived of compensation for the depreciation of their interest in the land.

His Lordship did not consider that there were any grounds for departing from the plain meaning of section 164(4) or for disapplying it. Accordingly, he would allow the appeal.

Lord Justice Fargher concurred with the Vice-Chancellor delivering a judgment concurring in the result.

Solicitors: Mr Philip Wilson-Sharp, Canterbury; Hempsens for Gillingham, Herne Bay.

Discovery of new evidence

In re Fletcher

On an application under section 13 of the Coroners Act 1988 to quash an inquest and for an order to hold a fresh inquest on the basis of the discovery of new evidence, such evidence would qualify as new (i) if it was not available at the time of the original inquest, (ii) would have been admissible had it then been available, (iii) was credible and relevant to an issue of significance in the inquest.

Furthermore, it had to be established that the new evidence might have made a material difference to the verdict recorded at the original inquest.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Beldam and Mr Justice Tudor Evans) so held on March 13 in a reserved judgment when they quashed the verdict in the inquest held on January 12, 1984, by Mr Michael R. E. Swannick, Seaside Road, on Percy Lewis Fletcher, a miner, that he had died from natural causes.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that new medical evidence showed that the deceased's death had been contributed to significantly by pneumoconiosis and in the circumstances of the case it qualified as new evidence.

Although there was expense and public inconvenience involved in holding a second inquest, the fact that an applicant was required to obtain the Attorney-General's consent before making such application was undoubtedly a safeguard that inappropriate and unnecessary applications would not be made.

Intoxication as a medical reason

Young v DPP

Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Waterhouse
[Judgment March 24]

Intoxication by alcohol was capable of amounting to a "medical reason", within the meaning of section 7(3)(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, for a suspect being unable to provide a specimen of breath for analysis such as would entitle a constable to require him to provide a specimen of blood or urine instead.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Paula Anne Young against her conviction by Newton Aycliffe Justices of failing to provide a specimen of blood for analysis contrary to section 7(6) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Mr John Gilmartin for the defendant: Mr John Evans for the prosecution.

MR WATERHOUSE said that the justices had found that the defendant had been required to provide

two specimens of breath on an Intoximeter but because of her state of intoxication she was unable to do so and the sergeant had decided to require her to provide a specimen for laboratory analysis. The defendant refused.

The defendant's case was that the request for a sample of blood was unlawful as intoxication was not a "medical reason" for a specimen of breath not to be provided as laid down in section 7(3)(a).

His Lordship did not accept that submission. There was no reason why a state of intoxication should not be such a medical reason. Such a state had well known effects on a person's state of control and reason.

There was no reason why intoxication should not afford a medical reason within section 7(3). Intoxication was a medical condition.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD agreed.
Solicitors: Ponsbury & Lyons for Basil P. Mellon & Co, Newcastle upon Tyne; CPS, Northumbria and Durham.

Proximity of firearm relevant

Regina v Pawlicki

Regina v Swindell

It was sufficient, for the purposes of section 18(1) of the Firearms Act 1968 and the meaning of the words "have with him a firearm" if a firearm were readily accessible to robbers when they were about to commit a robbery.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Steyn, Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Morland) so held on March 20 in dismissing appeals by John Pawlicki and Gary Swindell against their convictions in February 1990 at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court (Judge Ode and a jury) of having firearms with intent to commit an indictable offence, namely robbery.

LORD JUSTICE STEYN said that a satisfactory definition of the words "have with him a firearm" in section 18(1) was unattainable but that colour had to be derived from the purpose of the Firearms Act 1968 which, in broad terms, was designed to combat the use of firearms in and about the commission of crime and to protect public safety.

If the submission was accepted that a distance of 50 yards between criminals and their guns placed the criminals beyond the ambit of section 18(1) then the 1968 Act was less effective that was to have been expected.

The emphasis must be not so much on exact distances between the criminals and their guns but rather on the accessibility of those guns, judged in a common sense way in the context of criminals embarking on a joint enterprise to commit an indictable offence.

Prohibited weapon despite fault

Brown v DPP

The fact that due to some unknown fault a gun was not working did not change its character as a prohibited weapon.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Waterhouse) so held on March 24 in dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Mark Lawrence Brown against his conviction by the Woolwich Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate for possessing without authority a gun, designed for the discharge of an electrical charge, contrary to section 5(1)(b) of the Firearms Act 1968.

His Lordship did not accept that submission. There was no reason why a gun which was not working should not be such a prohibited weapon. Such a state had well known effects on a person's state of control and reason.

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LATE OFFERS! All colored
12 hours left now only \$1
Shy Total Call now 878-2

SHIRAZ 4 hrs left
Members all depart 5:15
11 April Direct 1-878-6
the web call 878-2792

VAL D'ISERE April 1st Sip
that 1 April to 11 April
Runs from 11 April to 11 April

GERMANY

GERMAN TRAVEL 11:15
Daily scheduled flights
878-2222 ART 1-878-2792

LEGAL NOTICES

Nature of business: Property
Date of appointment of administrator-receiver: 20 March 1986
Name of person appointing: Court
Name of person appointed: Johnathan P. R. Jones
Rank: Plr Joint Administrator-Receiver; office holder nos 2 & 3
Address: 53/31 - 53/33
Business: 53/31 and 53/33
Hobbs 155 Gower Street London WC1E 6BT

THE PRESIDENTIAL ACT 1979
SECTION 1(1) AND (2)
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of the Companies Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 40 John Street, London EC1Y 0W Wednesday 10th day of April 1992 at 10.15 in the forenoon.
In sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act
Pursuant to section 99(2)(a) of the said Act
Lectured immediately Practitioner

**MES
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Price £4.50

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ords Price £4.50

ooks) Price £5.50

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ON Price £5.50

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words Price £4.99

sswords Price £4.99

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Times Cross-
SE13 SQW
(weekends)

O NO 2750

5		6		7	
10					
		13			

19 Second of Scilly Isles (6)
21 Toughen (6)
22 Thrus (3)
23 Head air cavity (5)
24 Ship's flag (6)

DOWN
2 King dinosaur (14)
3 Chapter appendage (9)
4 Married (7)
5 Main Iberia state (5)
6 Toss (3)
7 Goethe, Schiller movement (5,3,5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2749
ACROSS: 1 Awry 3 Abacus 8 Explanation
10 Dancer 11 Dune 12 Vivaldi 14 Fox 15 Guy
16 Low life 17 Girth
19 Oak 22 Bell bottoms
20 Dollar 24 Upl

DOWN: 1 Approve
2 Real 4 Bridge 5 Canon
6 Shapely 7 Bend 9 A ra low
ebb 13 Vallhalla 14 Pig-
uend 15 Geology 18 Rebel
20 Kiss 21 Stag

The wrong crossword grid was mistakenly used in some editions of yesterday's Times. We apologise for the error.

16 17 18
19 20 21
22 23 24

13 British Malvinas (9) 17 Scum (5)
15 House row (7) 20 Nurse (1,1,1)

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Alekhine - Laszler, Moscow 1914. White has sacrificed a piece, and although he cannot win the game, he found an elegant way to force the draw. Can you see how he continued?

Solution below

White: 1. Rxe6
Black: 1... Qxe6
White: 2. Qd5
Black: 2... Qxd5
White: 3. Qd5
Black: 3... Qxd5
White: 4. Qd5
Black: 4... Qxd5
White: 5. Qd5
Black: 5... Qxd5
White: 6. Qd5
Black: 6... Qxd5
White: 7. Qd5
Black: 7... Qxd5
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Black: 21... Qxd5
White: 22. Qd5
Black: 22... Qxd5
White: 23. Qd5
Black: 23... Qxd5
White: 24. Qd5
Black: 24... Qxd5

check with 4. Qxd5 and 5. Qd5+ is unstoppable.

Solution: 1. Rxe6 2. Qd5 3. Qd5 4. Qd5 5. Qd5 6. Qd5 7. Qd5 8. Qd5 9. Qd5 10. Qd5 11. Qd5 12. Qd5 13. Qd5 14. Qd5 15. Qd5 16. Qd5 17. Qd5 18. Qd5 19. Qd5 20. Qd5 21. Qd5 22. Qd5 23. Qd5 24. Qd5

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (3086485)
- 9.25 **Schools** (54483195)
- 12.00 **Noel's Ark** Spanish documentary series on the nature and environment of Venezuela (18008)
- 12.30 **Business Daily** The latest news and analysis from the world's major markets (56114)
- 1.00 **Sesame Street** Entertaining early-learning series. The guest is actor Robin Williams (51669)
- 2.00 **I Love Lucy** (b/w). Vintage American domestic comedy series, starring the scatterbrained Lucille Ball (4553)
- 2.00 **Field of Vision** (b/w). 1986, b/w. The Errol Flynn seasons continues with a agreeable comedy in which he plays a press agent who falls for the daughter of the millionaire he has been hired to promote. Directed by Michael Curtiz (17143843)
- 4.15 **Countdown**. The final of the quick-fire words and numbers game presented by Richard Whiteley (3939093)
- 5.00 **Cutting Edge: "P" Company**. A repeat of Monday's documentary following the fortunes of 38 hopefuls attempting to pass the grueling course to join the parachute regiment (1640)
- 6.00 **Happy Days**. Nostalgic American high school comedy series set in 1950s Milwaukee, starring Henry Winkler. (Telex) (621)
- 6.30 **Tonight's Jonathan Ross**. Among tonight's guests is Jock Macleod (c) 973
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Fiona Murray. Includes 10 floating voters on their reaction to party election broadcasts (Telex) Weather (375851)
- 7.50 **Doctors**. Three voters on the Eastbourne seashore discuss what they see as important general election issues (214553)



Swapping identities: Cilla Black with Hale and Pace (8 00mm)

To the crumbling manor born: the Russell family (8.30pm)

8.30 **Short Stories: The Inheritance.**
● CHOICE: Another watchable entry in the documentary slot for new directors visits a family out of joint in the Irish Republic. The Russells are remnants of the Anglo-Irish landed gentry, trying to maintain a crumbling estate outside Cork and unable to grasp that they are backing a hopeless cause. Geoffrey Russell, a charismatic and resourceful man, died five years ago leaving a widow and three sons. None has inherited his business fair or drive. None has any clear idea of what to do, selling up is unthinkable and meanwhile the once handsome house is falling into decay because the family cannot afford repairs. Donald Watt's film finds the Russells extraordinarily open about their predicament and commendably short on self-pity. As one of the sons put it, they cannot break out their past (324)

9.00 **Cheers.** More bar-room comedy from the staff and regulars of the celebrated Boston watering hole. (Teletext) (s) (9737)

9.30 **Flowering Passions.** Anne Pavord visits cottage gardens in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire (36380)

10.00 **Roseanne.** Another collection of snappy one-liners from Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman. (Teletext) (s) (7737)

10.30 **Whose Line Is It Anyway?** Improvised comedy hosted by Cleave Anderson (26465)

11.00 **Trading Places.** Garth Hale and Norman Pace change places with Cilla Black in support of the campaign for the breast cancer research charity Breakthrough (34008)

12.00 **Midnight Special.** Shona McDonald with the latest news from the hustings. Includes a party political broadcast on behalf of the Green party (64886)

SKY NEWS

[illegible]

TV VARIATIONS

ANGELA

As London episode: 2:20pm-8:35 Mottack
(750523) 5:10-5:40 Coming of Age
(751053) 6:30 Home and Away (22525)
2:25-5:25 Angela News (231640) 10:45
Pond's Question (751008) 11:40 Musical
Night (767789) 12:35-1:55 Daily Dandy
(470792)

ASTORIA

As London episode: 1:50pm-3:15 Film:
Angus's Yarn (695397) 6:00 Lookaround
(70749) 6:30-8:35 Take the High Road
(48821) 10:10 10:30-11:00 (68283) 11:10
11:40 Equinox (63921) 12:05 Blue Coat
Schools' Tonight (650119) 12:35-1:05 Jake
and the Fishermen (479536) 2:05 Jake
and the Fishermen (479536) 3:00 Chems-
tractions (751621) 3:30 Night Shift
(501228) 4:25-5:30 Film: The Black Rider
(470792)

CENTRAL

As London episode: 2:20pm-3:35 (22525)

GRANADA

As London episode: 2:20pm-3:15 Donahue
(750523) 5:10-5:40 Chems- (650523)
3:30-5:45 Granada Tonight (64821) 10:10
Granada 500 (750509) 11:40 The Love
and Harry McGraw (751028) 12:35-1:05 Elvis
Good Rockin' Tonight (473741) 2:05 Jake
and the Fisherman (479536) 3:00 Chems-
tractions (751621) 3:30 Night Shift
(501228) 4:25-5:30 Film: The Black Rider
(470792)

HTV WEST

As London episode: 1:50pm- The Young
Doctors (695397) 2:20-3:15 Mottack
Write (61311) 3:25-3:55 A Country Pro-
gram (348737) 4:10-4:30 The Young (630-
500) 4:35-5:00 The Young (630-500)
5:00-5:30 The Young (630-500) 5:30-6:00
Neary Sunday (750509) 6:00-6:30
McGoud Encounter with Arles (707821)

HTV WALES

As HTV West episode: 6:00pm Wales at Six

Jan and Her (619)

ANGELA

At London: opening: 2:20pm-5:15 Matlock (765020) 5:15-6:40 Closing: Age of Innocence (1993) 6:00 Home and Away (2265) 6:25-6:55 Angela Neri (231640) 10:45 Prowess: Opening: 75(1008) 11:40 Musical (76778) 12:35-1:05 Daily Denz (76778)

ARTIST

At London: opening: 1:50pm-3:15 Film: George's Yarn (694379) 6:00 Lookaround (1993) 6:30-6:55 Take the High Road (1988) 10:40 Up London (682363) 11:10 Home and Away (2265) 11:35 Blue Gate (1993) Tonight (650119) 12:35-1:05 Alfred Hitchcock: Presents (717284) 2:05 Jack and the Beanstalk (725536) 2:05 Jack and the Beanstalk (725536) 3:00 Chameleon: Opening: 1:50-2:15 Film: The Black Rider (470032) 2:25-5:30 Film: The Black Rider (470032)

CENTRAL

At London: opening: 2:20pm-3:15 Donnie

GRANADA

At London: opening: 2:20pm-3:15 Donnie (765020) 5:15-6:40 Chances (616003) 8:30-8:55 Granada Tonight (64821) 10:40 Granada: 8:50 (730209) 11:40 The Love and Henry McGraw (730209) 12:35-1:05 Elvis: The Last Days (730209) 1:10-1:40 The Love and the Fatman (472666) 3:00 Chameleon: Opening: (751621) 3:25 Night Shift (601228) 4:25-5:30 Film: The Black Rider (470032)

HTV WEST

At London: opening: 1:50pm The Young Doctors (653637) 2:20-3:15 Murder, She Wrote (61313) 3:25-3:55 A Country Practice (34787) 4:10-4:45 HTV News (6797) 5:30-6:00 The Young Doctors (653637) 6:00-6:30 The Young Doctors (730209) 6:30-7:00 The Young Doctors (730209) 7:00-7:30 The Young Doctors (730209) 7:30-8:00 The Young Doctors (730209) 8:00-8:30 The Young Doctors (730209) 8:30-9:00 The Young Doctors (730209) 9:00-9:30 The Young Doctors (730209) 9:30-10:00 The Young Doctors (730209) 10:00-10:30 The Young Doctors (730209) 10:30-11:00 The Young Doctors (730209) 11:00-11:30 The Young Doctors (730209) 11:30-12:00 The Young Doctors (730209) 12:00-12:30 The Young Doctors (730209) 12:30-1:00 The Young Doctors (730209) 1:00-1:30 The Young Doctors (730209) 1:30-2:00 The Young Doctors (730209) 2:00-2:30 The Young Doctors (730209) 2:30-3:00 The Young Doctors (730209) 3:00-3:30 The Young Doctors (730209) 3:30-4:00 The Young Doctors (730209) 4:00-4:30 The Young Doctors (730209) 4:30-5:00 The Young 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Doctors

RADIO 4

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

RADIO 5
News and sport on the hour until 7.00pm.
6.00am World Service World News, 6.09 News
about Britain, 6.15 The World Today 6.30
The 11.15 European, 6.45 The 11.15 European
and 6.55 The 11.15 European. 10.25 The 11.15
European and 10.35 The 11.15 European. 10.45
The 11.15 European and 10.55 The 11.15 European.
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7.00pm The 11.15 European and 11.15 European.

WORLD SERVICE

ORKSHIRE
 is London export: 1.55-3.15 Film: Danger
 3.70-7.00 (9400447) 8.00 Calendar (377)
 3.00-5.00 Campaign Calendar (846821)
 1.40-4.00 You, the Voter! (785080) 11.40-
 12.00 News 8.00 News 9.30 The Late

RADIO 4

5.55am Shopping Forecast 6.00
News Briefing, incl 6.03
Weather 6.16 Farming Today
6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30
Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30,
8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55
Weather 7.45 Thought for the

Day 8.48 Party Election Broadcast by the Labour party 8.58 Weather	Nigel Barley retraces the footsteps of Sir Stamford Raffles; plus, the pick of the new paperbacks (s)
9.00 News	4.00 News
9.05 Election Call: 071-769 5000. Voters can ring Michael Howard, employment minister	4.05 Kaleidoscope looks at the Ramnagar prohibitions; Int-

10.00 News: Daily Service (LW only)

10.30-12.00 Campaign Report (LW only)

10.00-10.30am Carry on Up the Zeitgeist (FM only): Enter Stage Right a Magician

● **CHOICE:** Long after the rest of us have stopped analysing what made *The Goon Show* unique as radio comedy, Edward Blishen weighs in with his own thoughts, and they are notable additions to the

7.20-8.05 Pick of the Week (FM only) (s)
7.20 Woman's Hour (LW only) (r)
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Runcorn, Cheshire, by Judith Chaplin, former political adviser to the

war Britain when the madhouse of war gave way to the madhouse of peace, he concludes that the Goons "went mad for us all, and the laughter they inspired in us was a step towards sanity".

Well put, Mr Blissham!
0.15 The Bible (1.1W only): Ezekiel.
 Read by Paul Scofield (3 of 6)
0.30 Woman's Hour from
 Edinburgh. Includes an
 interview with Leslie Hill,
 founder of the Scottish
 Women's Institute and
 journalist; and Peter
 Mandelson, former director of
 communications for the
 Labour party, and Labour
 party parliamentary candidate
8.50 Stop Press, with Geoffrey

1.00 News
1.30 The Natural History Programme
2.00 News: You and Yours
2.25pm The Food Programme

12.55 Weather	10.00 The World Tonight (s)
1.00 The World at One (LW only from 1.40)	10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Blazing Paddles, written and read by Brian Wilson (final part)
1.40 The Archers (FM only); (r)	11.00 News 11.05 Week Ending (s)
1.55 Shipping Forecast	11.45 Election Platform
2.00 News; Classic Serial: Buddenbrooks - The Decline	12.00-12.45 pm

REQUIREMENTS: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. Radio
FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6.
Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM-97.3. Cumbria
105.3-106.5m; 107.9-108.5m; 109.5-110.5m; 111.5-112.5m; 113.5-114.5m; 115.5-116.5m; 117.5-118.5m; 119.5-120.5m; 121.5-122.5m; 123.5-124.5m; 125.5-126.5m; 127.5-128.5m; 129.5-130.5m; 131.5-132.5m; 133.5-134.5m; 135.5-136.5m; 137.5-138.5m; 139.5-140.5m; 141.5-142.5m; 143.5-144.5m; 145.5-146.5m; 147.5-148.5m; 149.5-150.5m; 151.5-152.5m; 153.5-154.5m; 155.5-156.5m; 157.5-158.5m; 159.5-160.5m; 161.5-162.5m; 163.5-164.5m; 165.5-166.5m; 167.5-168.5m; 169.5-170.5m; 171.5-172.5m; 173.5-174.5m; 175.5-176.5m; 177.5-178.5m; 179.5-180.5m; 181.5-182.5m; 183.5-184.5m; 185.5-186.5m; 187.5-188.5m; 189.5-190.5m; 191.5-192.5m; 193.5-194.5m; 195.5-196.5m; 197.5-198.5m; 199.5-200.5m; 201.5-202.5m; 203.5-204.5m; 205.5-206.5m; 207.5-208.5m; 209.5-210.5m; 211.5-212.5m; 213.5-214.5m; 215.5-216.5m; 217.5-218.5m; 219.5-220.5m; 221.5-222.5m; 223.5-224.5m; 225.5-226.5m; 227.5-228.5m; 229.5-230.5m; 231.5-232.5m; 233.5-234.5m; 235.5-236.5m; 237.5-238.5m; 239.5-240.5m; 241.5-242.5m; 243.5-244.5m; 245.5-246.5m; 247.5-248.5m; 249.5-250.5m; 251.5-252.5m; 253.5-254.5m; 255.5-256.5m; 257.5-258.5m; 259.5-260.5m; 261.5-262.5m; 263.5-264.5m; 265.5-266.5m; 267.5-268.5m; 269.5-270.5m; 271.5-272.5m; 273.5-274.5m; 275.5-276.5m; 277.5-278.5m; 279.5-280.5m; 281.5-282.5m; 283.5-284.5m; 285.5-286.5m; 287.5-288.5m; 289.5-290.5m; 291.5-292.5m; 293.5-294.5m; 295.5-296.5m; 297.5-298.5m; 299.5-300.5m; 301.5-302.5m; 303.5-304.5m; 305.5-306.5m; 307.5-308.5m; 309.5-310.5m; 311.5-312.5m; 313.5-314.5m; 315.5-316.5m; 317.5-318.5m; 319.5-320.5m; 321.5-322.5m; 323.5-324.5m; 325.5-326.5m; 327.5-328.5m; 329.5-330.5m; 331.5-332.5m; 333.5-334.5m; 335.5-336.5m; 337.5-338.5m; 339.5-340.5m; 341.5-342.5m; 343.5-344.5m; 345.5-346.5m; 347.5-348.5m; 349.5-350.5m; 351.5-352.5m; 353.5-354.5m; 355.5-356.5m; 357.5-358.5m; 359.5-360.5m; 361.5-362.5m; 363.5-364.5m; 365.5-366.5m; 367.5-368.5m; 369.5-370.5m; 371.5-372.5m; 373.5-374.5m; 375.5-376.5m; 377.5-378.5m; 379.5-380.5m; 381.5-382.5m; 383.5-384.5m; 385.5-386.5m; 387.5-388.5m; 389.5-390.5m; 391.5-392.5m; 393.5-394.5m; 395.5-396.5m; 397.5-398.5m; 399.5-400.5m; 401.5-402.5m; 403.5-404.5m; 405.5-406.5m; 407.5-408.5m; 409.5-410.5m; 411.5-412.5m; 413.5-414.5m; 415.5-416.5m; 417.5-418.5m; 419.5-420.5m; 421.5-422.5m; 423.5-424.5m; 425.5-426.5m; 427.5-428.5m; 429.5-430.5m; 431.5-432.5m; 433.5-434.5m; 435.5-436.5m; 437.5-438.5m; 439.5-440.5m; 441.5-442.5m; 443.5-444.5m; 445.5-446.5m; 447.5-448.5m; 449.5-450.5m; 451.5-452.5m; 453.5-454.5m; 455.5-456.5m; 457.5-458.5m; 459.5-460.5m; 461.5-462.5m; 463.5-464.5m; 465.5-466.5m; 467.5-468.5m; 469.5-470.5m; 471.5-472.5m; 473.5-474.5m; 475.5-476.5m; 477.5-478.5m; 479.5-480.5m; 481.5-482.5m; 483.5-484.5m; 485.5-486.5m; 487.5-488.5m; 489.5-490.5m; 491.5-492.5m; 493.5-494.5m; 495.5-496.5m; 497.5-498.5m; 499.5-500.5m; 501.5-502.5m; 503.5-504.5m; 505.5-506.5m; 507.5-508.5m; 509.5-510.5m; 511.5-512.5m; 513.5-514.5m; 515.5-516.5m; 517.5-518.5m; 519.5-520.5m; 521.5-522.5m; 523.5-524.5m; 525.5-526.5m; 527.5-528.5m; 529.5-530.5m; 531.5-532.5m; 533.5-534.5m; 535.5-536.5m; 537.5-538.5m; 539.5-540.5m; 541.5-542.5m; 543.5-544.5m; 545.5-546.5m; 547.5-548.5m; 549.5-550.5m; 551.5-552.5m; 553.5-554.5m; 555.5-556.5m; 557.5-558.5m; 559.5-560.5m; 561.5-562.5m; 563.5-564.5m; 565.5-566.5m; 567.5-568.5m; 569.5-570.5m; 571.5-572.5m; 573.5-574.5m; 575.5-576.5m; 577.5-578.5m; 579.5-580.5m; 581.5-582.5m; 583.5-584.5m; 585.5-586.5m; 587.5-588.5m; 589.5-590.5m; 591.5-592.5m; 593.5-594.5m; 595.5-596.5m; 597.5-598.5m; 599.5-600.5m; 601.5-602.5m; 603.5-604.5m; 605.5-606.5m; 607.5-608.5m; 609.5-610.5m; 611.5-612.5m; 613.5-614.5m; 615.5-616.5m; 617.5-618.5m; 619.5-620.5m; 621.5-622.5m; 623.5-624.5m; 625.5-626.5m; 627.5-628.5m; 629.5-630.5m; 631.5-632.5m; 633.5-634.5m; 635.5-636.5m; 637.5-638.5m; 639.5-640.5m; 641.5-642.5m; 643.5-644.5m; 645.5-646.5m; 647.5-648.5m; 649.5-650.5m; 651.5-652.5m; 653.5-654.5m; 655.5-656.5m; 657.5-658.5m; 659.5-660.5m; 661.5-662.5m; 663.5-664.5m; 665.5-666.5m; 667.

[illegible]

06KHz/483m

[illegible]